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Rip Hunter... TIME MASTER

CHAPTER 1

A FANTASTIC MALADY SUDDENLY STRIKES IN THE 20TH CENTURY-- AND THE SOLE ANTIDOTE LIES HIDDEN CENTURIES IN THE PAST! TO BRING BACK THE PRECIOUS SUBSTANCE, THE FEARLESS TIME TRAVELERS, UNDER THEIR LEADER, RIP HUNTER, HURTLE BACKWARDS IN TIME, ON A...

TRACK of the WIZARD'S BEAST

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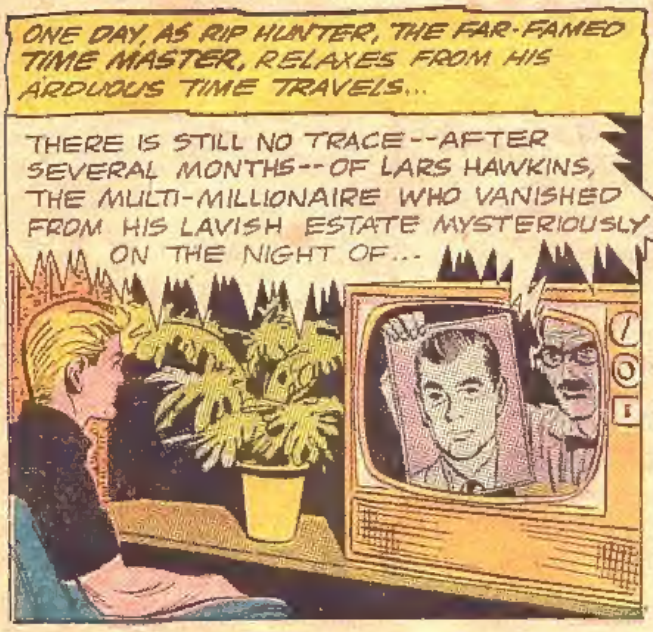
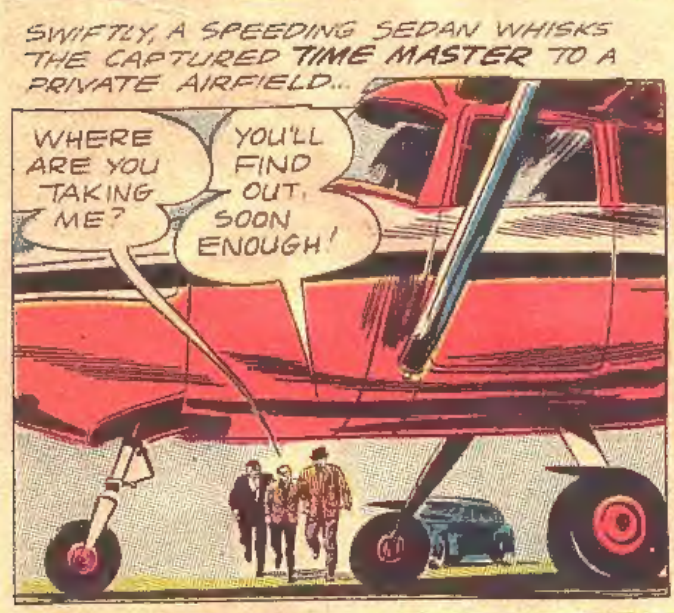
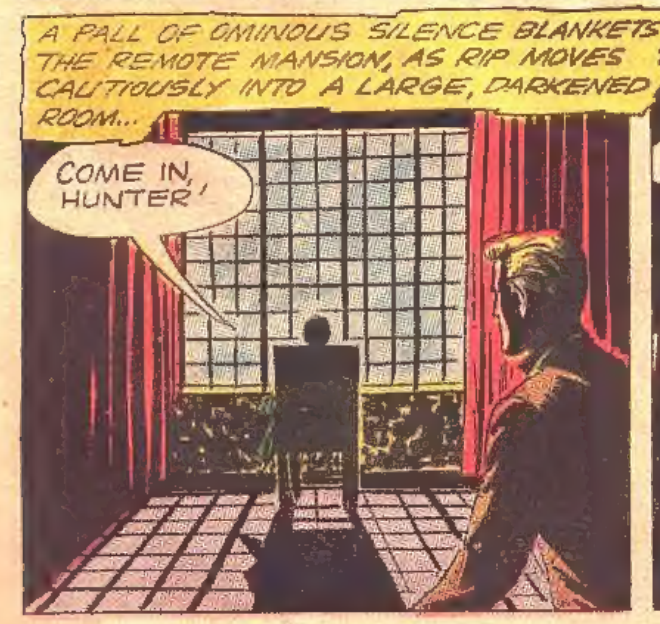
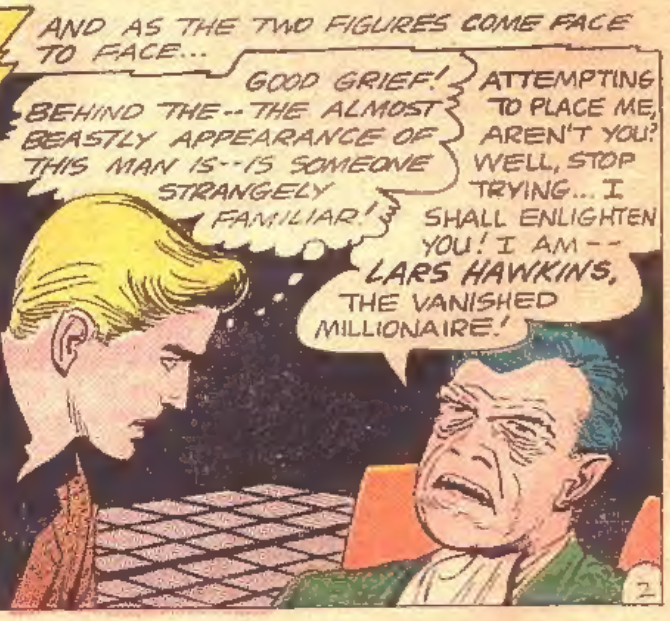

ONE DAY, AS RIP HUNTER, THE FAR-FAMED TIME MASTER, RELAXES FROM HIS ARDUOUS TIME TRAVELS...
THERE IS STILL NO TRACE--AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS--OF LARS HAWKINS, THE MULTI-MILLIONAIRE WHO VANISHED FROM HIS LAVISH ESTATE MYSTERIOUSLY ON THE NIGHT OF...

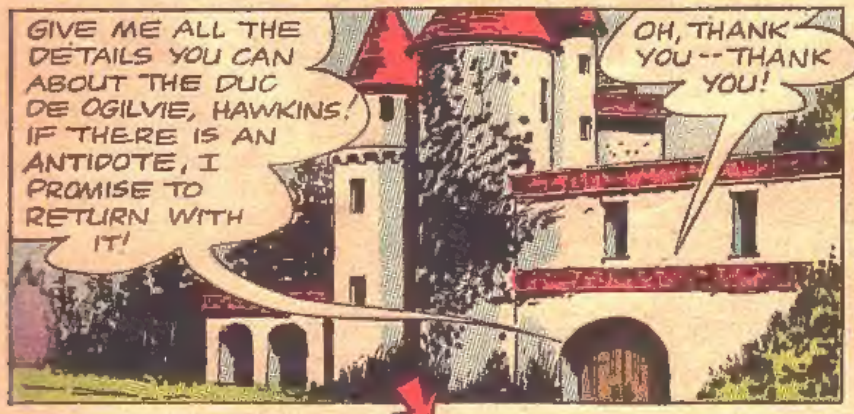
JUST THEN...
WHAT--? WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
GET DRESSED, HUNTER--AND COME WITH US! AND DON'T TRY ANY TRICKS... WE'RE ARMED!


SWIFTLY, A SPEEDING SEDAN WHISKS THE CAPTURED TIME MASTER TO A PRIVATE AIRFIELD...
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
YOU'LL FIND OUT, SOON ENOUGH!

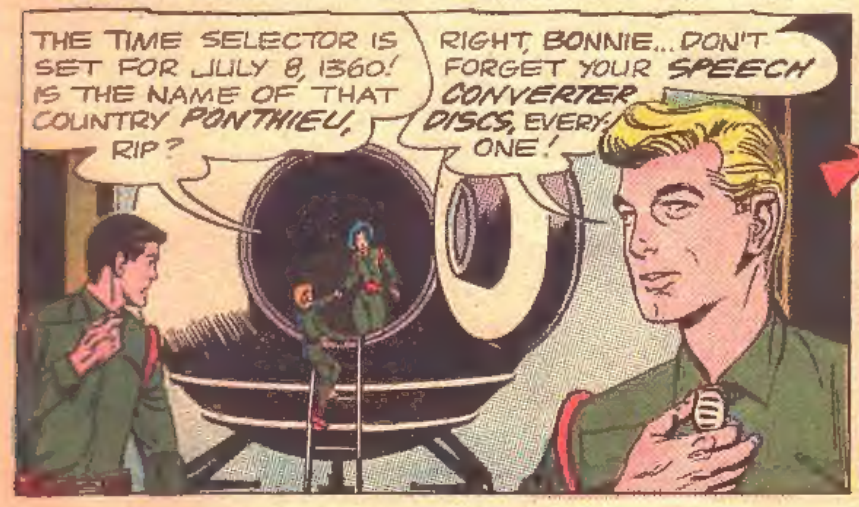
BEFORE LONG, ON THE GROUNDS OF A LAVISH ESTATE...
GO RIGHT IN, HUNTER--THE DOOR'S OPEN!


A PALL OF OMINOUS SILENCE BLANKETS THE REMOTE MANSION, AS RIP MOVES CAUTIOUSLY INTO A LARGE, DARKENED ROOM...
COME IN, HUNTER!

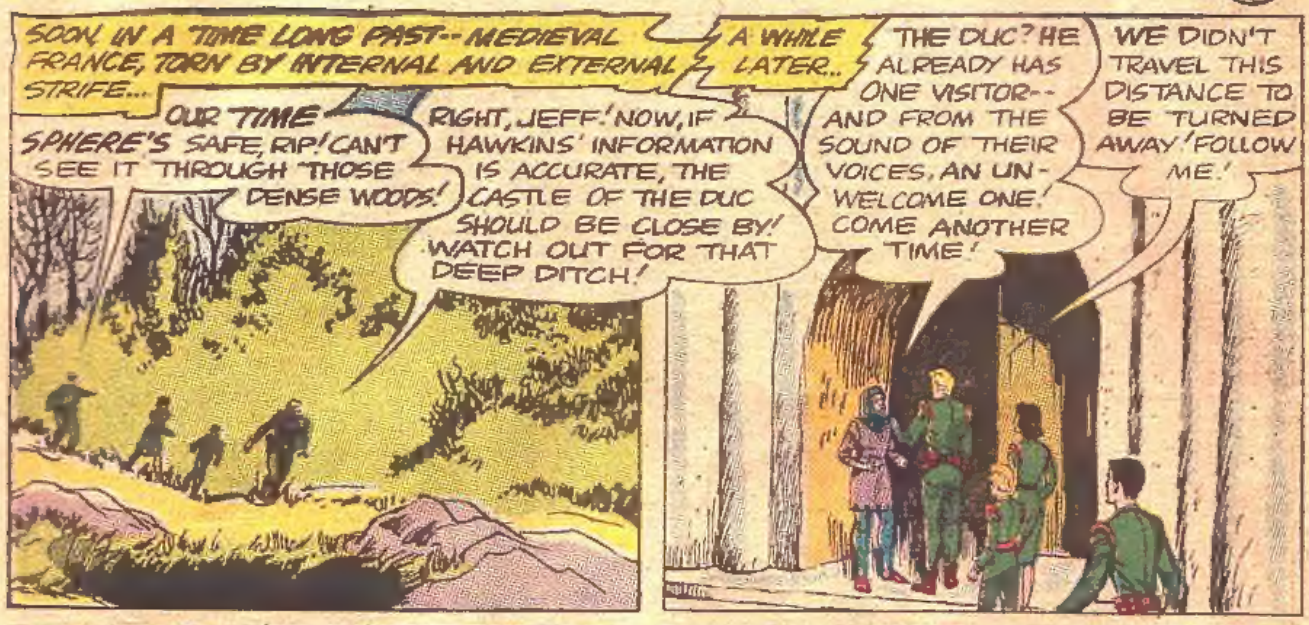

AND AS THE TWO FIGURES COME FACE TO FACE...
GOOD GRIEF! BEHIND THE--THE ALMOST BEASTLY APPEARANCE OF THIS MAN IS--IS SOMEONE STRANGELY FAMILIAR!
ATTEMPTING TO PLACE ME, AREN'T YOU? WELL, STOP TRYING... I SHALL ENLIGHTEN YOU! I AM--LARS HAWKINS, THE VANISHED MILLIONAIRE!



AND SO, IN A SECRET MOUNTAIN LAB, NEXT DAY, THE WORLD'S MOST ADVENTUROUS FOURSOME COMPLETES PLANS FOR STILL ANOTHER VOYAGE INTO THE PAST...

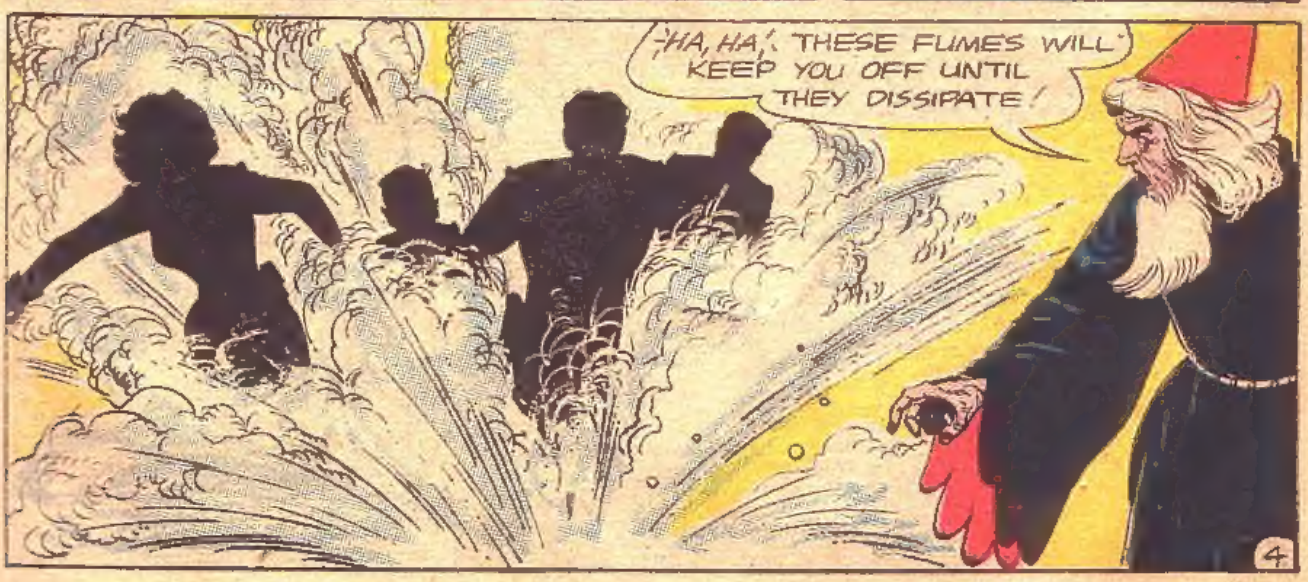


NEXT MOMENT, THE HATCH CLANGS SHUT, AND POWERFUL ELECTRONIC MOTORS HUM...


SOON, IN A TIME LONG PAST-- MEDIEVAL FRANCE, TORN BY INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL STRIFE...
OUR TIME SPHERE'S SAFE, RIP! CAN'T SEE IT THROUGH THOSE DENSE WOODS!
RIGHT, JEFF! NOW, IF HAWKINS' INFORMATION IS ACCURATE, THE CASTLE OF THE DUC SHOULD BE CLOSE BY! WATCH OUT FOR THAT DEEP DITCH!
A WHILE LATER...
THE DUC? HE ALREADY HAS ONE VISITOR-- AND FROM THE SOUND OF THEIR VOICES, AN UN-WELCOME ONE! COME ANOTHER TIME!
WE DIDN'T TRAVEL THIS DISTANCE TO BE TURNED AWAY! FOLLOW ME!

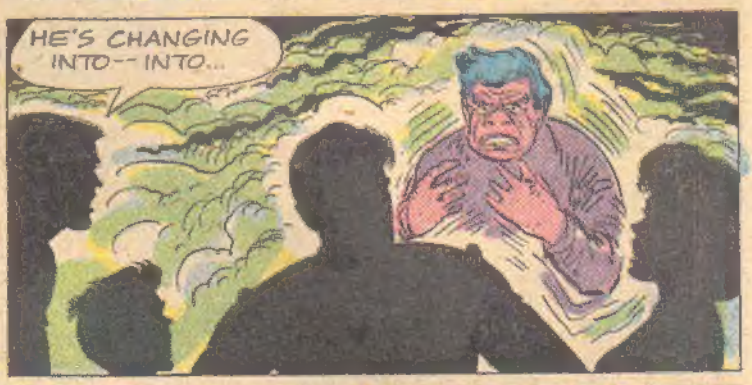
AS THEY BURST INTO THE GREAT HALL...
IF YOU REFUSE TO GIVE UP YOUR LANDS, DUC, I HAVE A WAY OF MAKING CERTAIN THAT NO OGILVIE WILL EVER RULE AGAIN!
BEGONE, VAREAU-- YOUR THREATS DO NOT SCARE ME!

I'LL SHOW YOU!... HUH?
DON'T TRY ANYTHING, WIZARD!


HA, HA! THESE FUMES WILL KEEP YOU OFF UNTIL THEY DISSIPATE!

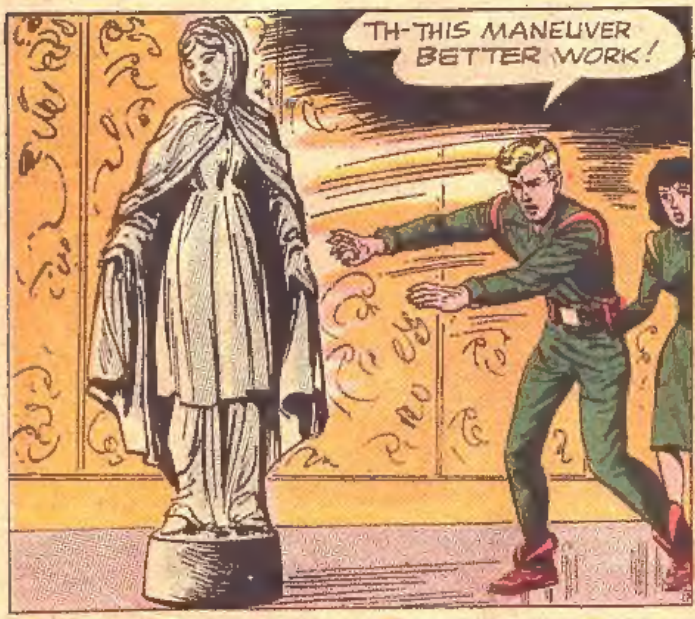
LONG ENOUGH TO GIVE YOU WHAT I'VE BROUGHT, DUC!

RIP! LOOK! S-SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO THE DUC!
HA, HA, HA!


HE'S CHANGING INTO-- INTO...

...THE BEAST!

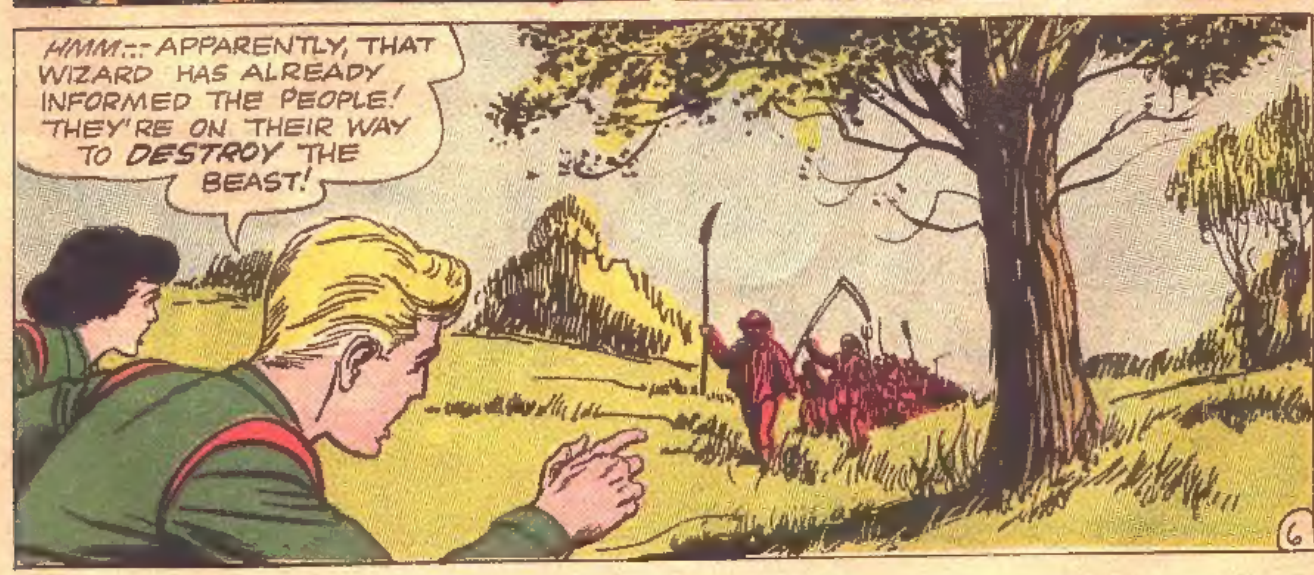
JEEPERS! WE'RE TRAPPED!

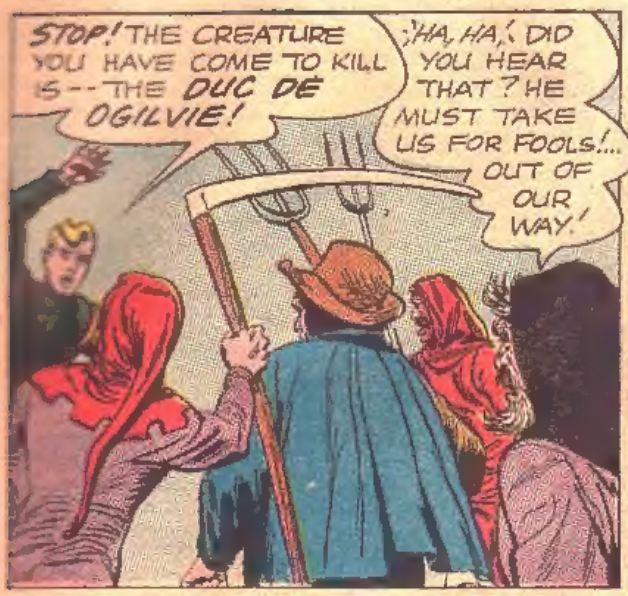

TH-THIS MANEUVER BETTER WORK!

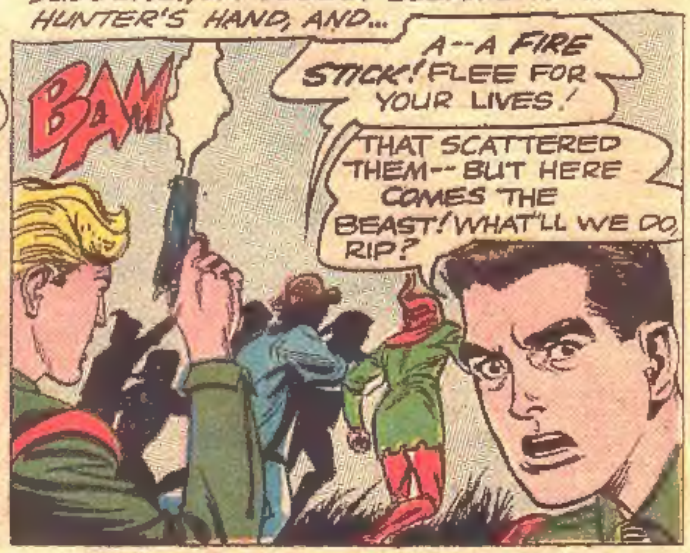
NEXT INSTANT..

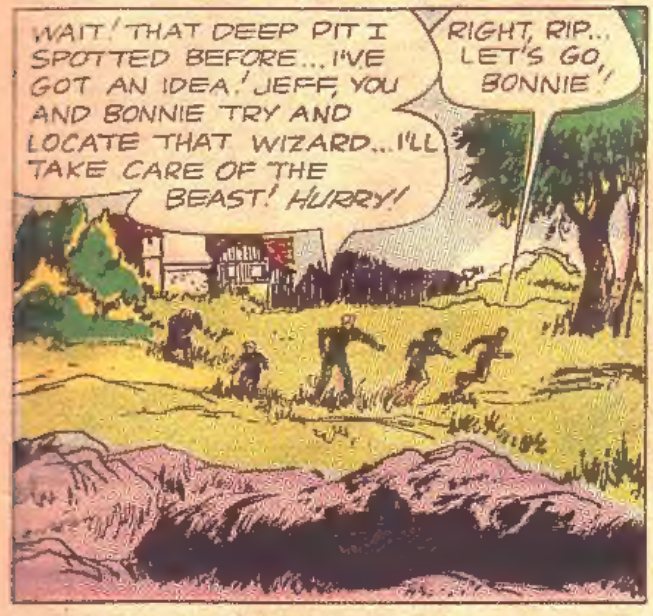
COME ON--BEFORE THAT BEAST DECIDES TO START ON US!

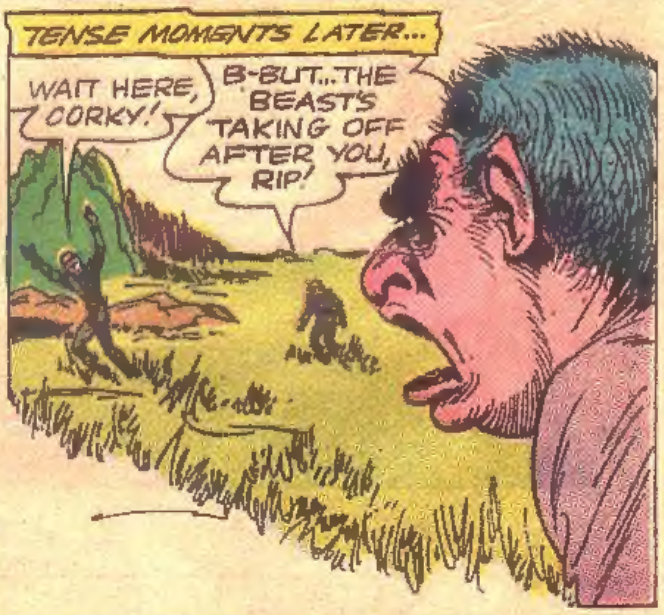
RIP--WE'LL HAVE TO WARN THE PEOPLE TO TAKE COVER!


HMM:: APPARENTLY, THAT WIZARD HAS ALREADY INFORMED THE PEOPLE! THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY TO DESTROY THE BEAST!

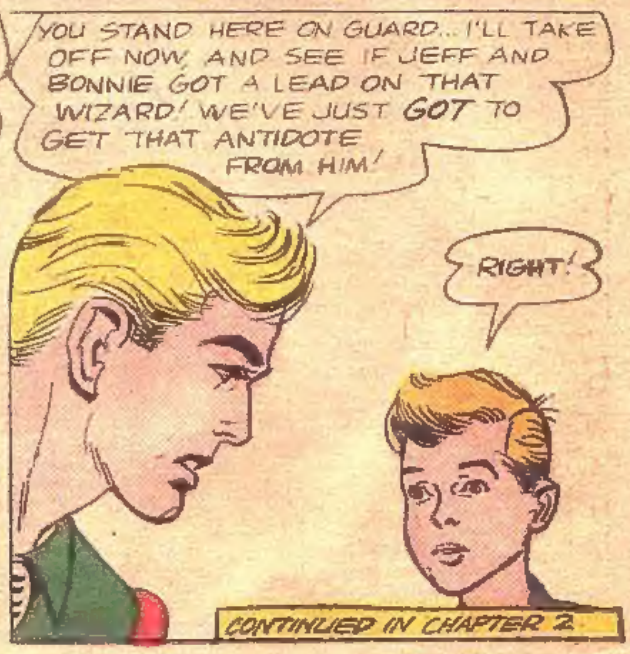

STOP! THE CREATURE YOU HAVE COME TO KILL IS--THE DUC DE OGILVIE!
HA, HA! DID YOU HEAR THAT? HE MUST TAKE US FOR FOOLS!... OUT OF OUR WAY!


SUDDENLY, AN OBJECT GLEAMS IN RIP HUNTER'S HAND, AND...
BAM
A--A FIRE STICK! FLEE FOR YOUR LIVES!
THAT SCATTERED THEM--BUT HERE COMES THE BEAST! WHAT'LL WE DO, RIP?


WAIT! THAT DEEP PIT I SPOTTED BEFORE... I'VE GOT AN IDEA! JEFF, YOU AND BONNIE TRY AND LOCATE THAT WIZARD... I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE BEAST! HURRY!
RIGHT, RIP... LET'S GO, BONNIE!


TENSE MOMENTS LATER...
WAIT HERE, CORKY!
B-BUT...THE BEAST'S TAKING OFF AFTER YOU, RIP!

RIP! IT'S--IT'S ALMOST ON TOP OF YOU!



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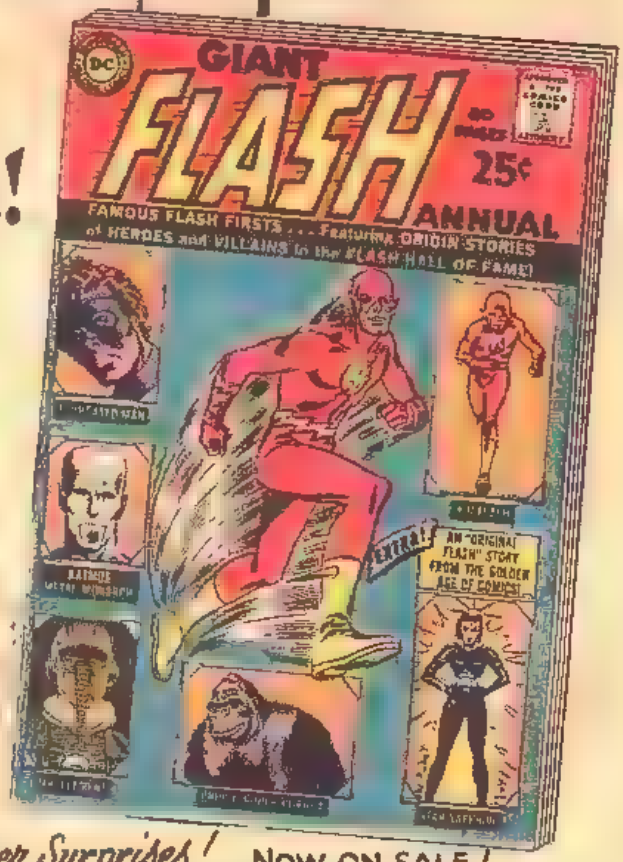

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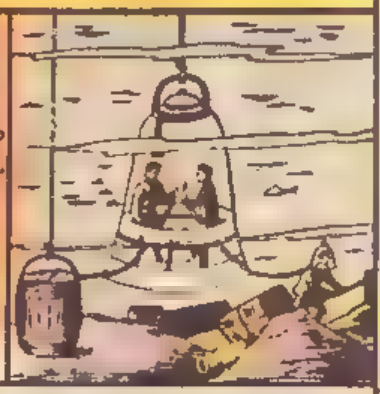
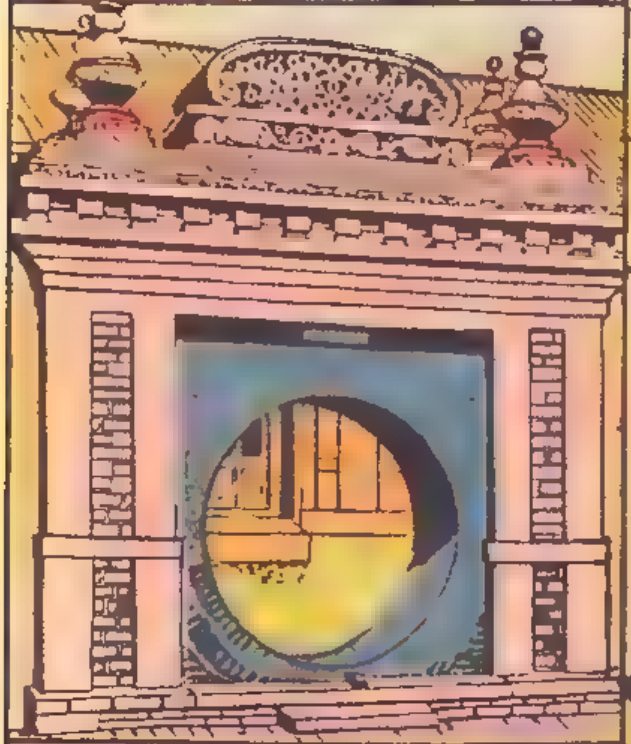
STRANGE AND CURIOUS FACTS COLLECTED BY RIP HUNTER ON HIS AMAZING ADVENTURES INTO THE PAST

THE IDEA OF A DIVING BELL GOES ALL THE WAY BACK TO 1690, WHEN DR. HALLEY CAME UP WITH THIS CONCEPT. THIS IS NOT A DRAWING OF HOW IT WORKED--BUT HOW IT WAS **SUPPOSED** TO WORK. IT WAS NEVER TESTED, LUCKILY.



HE FRENCH CROSSBOW OF THE MIDDLE AGES WAS A FORMIDABLE WEAPON, AND REQUIRED GREAT SKILL ON THE PART OF THE SOLDIER. HE ARCHER IS SHOWN HERE WITH HIS FOOT IN THE STIRRUP WHILE HE BENDS THE BOW BY WINDING THE STRING TAUT.



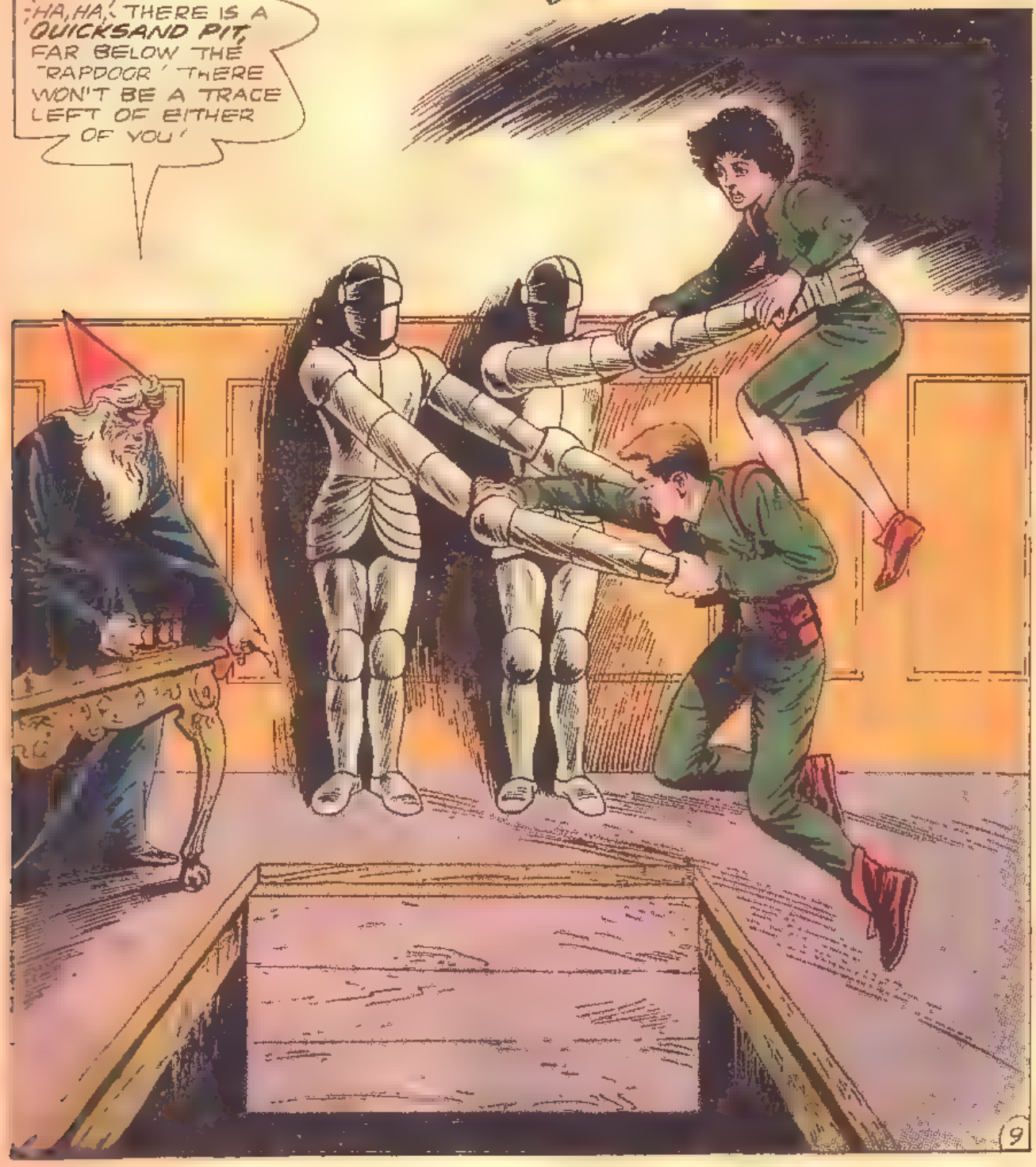
THE MOON GATE OF THE EMPEROR O-FANG'S PALACE, BUILT OVER 2,000 YEARS AGO, WAS MADE OF A MAGNETIC IRON ORE--LODESTONE. ITS PURPOSE--TO PREVENT ENEMIES FROM ENTERING THE PALACE CARRYING CONCEALED WEAPONS. THE MAGNETIC ATTRACTION OF THE ORE BETRAYED ANY PERSON HANDLING ANY KIND OF METAL OBJECT.

THIS MAY NOT LOOK ANY MORE PRACTICAL THAN THE DIVING BELL--BUT AT LEAST, THIS GLIDER, BUILT ALL THE WAY BACK IN 1896, ACTUALLY WORKED! THE FIVE-DECKER WINGS COULD SWERVE FORE AND AFT, GIVING THE TEST PILOT A DEGREE OF CONTROL OVER THE CRAFT.

BEHIND THE GRIM STONE WALLS OF HIS CASTLE THE WIZARD VAREAU WAITS FOR FINAL VICTORY! AND WHEN JEFF AND BONNIE MAKE A VALIANT ATTEMPT TO TURN THIS VICTORY TO DEFEAT, THEY FALL VICTIM TO..

CHAPTER 2

the WIZARD'S SECRET WEAPONS



LEFT ALONE TO GUARD THE BEAST, YOUNG CORKY PEERS GRIMLY DOWN THE PIT, AS..
HE'S TRYING TO REACH THAT HEAVY FORKED ROOT, AND USE IT AS A LEVER TO LEAP OUT!

SUDDENLY...
GOLLY! HE-- HE GOT HIS HAND CAUGHT IN THE ROOT-- AND IS HANGING FROM IT IN PAIN!

AGONIZED GROANS REND THE AIR, AS...
TH-THE POOR THING COULD FREE HIMSELF EASILY, IF HE COULD GET A GRIP ON IT! MAYBE I CAN DIG IT OUT, WITH MY KNIFE!

AS TENSE MINUTES PASS...
EASY, YOU STUPID BEAST! I'M DOING THIS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!

SOON...
WHEW! DID IT!

MEANWHILE, IN A SMALL CASTLE SOME DISTANCE OFF...

THAT PASSERBY GAVE US THE RIGHT DOPE BONNIE! THIS IS THE SORCERER VAREAU'S PLACE, ALL RIGHT

YES -- BUT WHAT NOW?

I'LL TRY AND TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE THEN FORCE HIM TO HAND OVER THAT ANTIDOTE!

GOOD IDEA BUT WE'LL HAVE TO GET INSIDE FIRST

I'VE ALREADY THOUGHT OF THAT! THE CHIMNEY ON THIS CASTLE LOOKS BIG ENOUGH FOR A HORSE

SHORTLY, ON THE ROOF

I'LL GO FIRST, BONNIE!

CAREFUL JEFF!

BUT AS THEY START TO DESCEND.

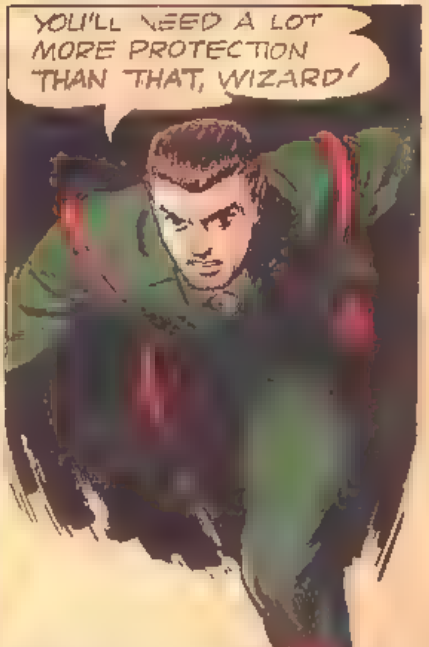
TH-THOSE TERRIFYING MASKS, JEFF... THEY START SCREAMING AS WE GO DOWN PAST THEM!

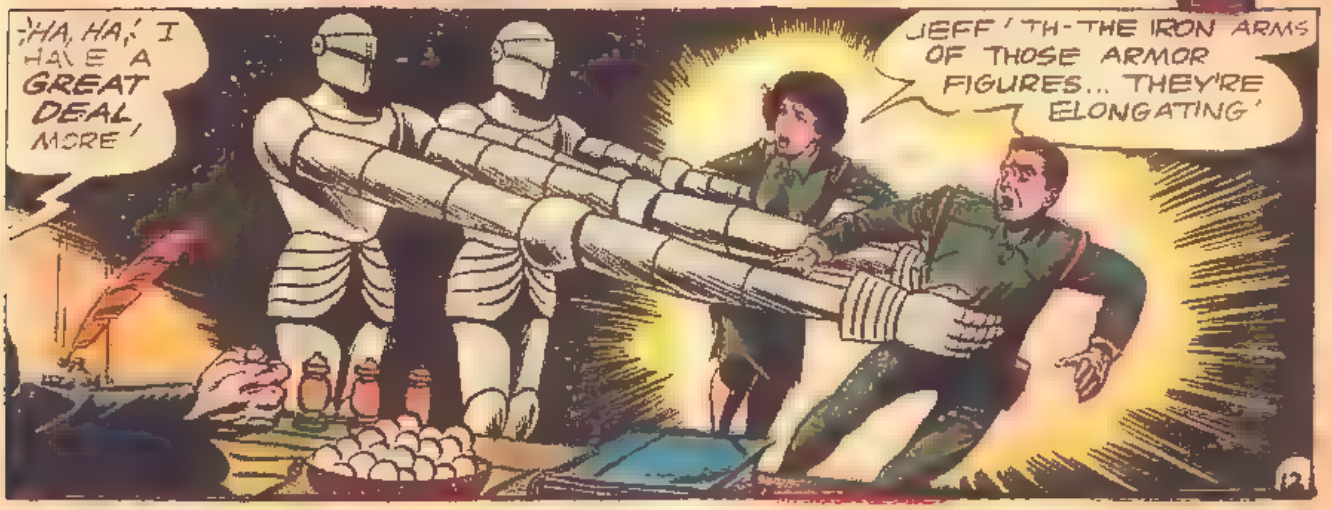
THEY'RE SOME KIND OF WARNING DEVICE! QUICK -- HEAD BACK UP!

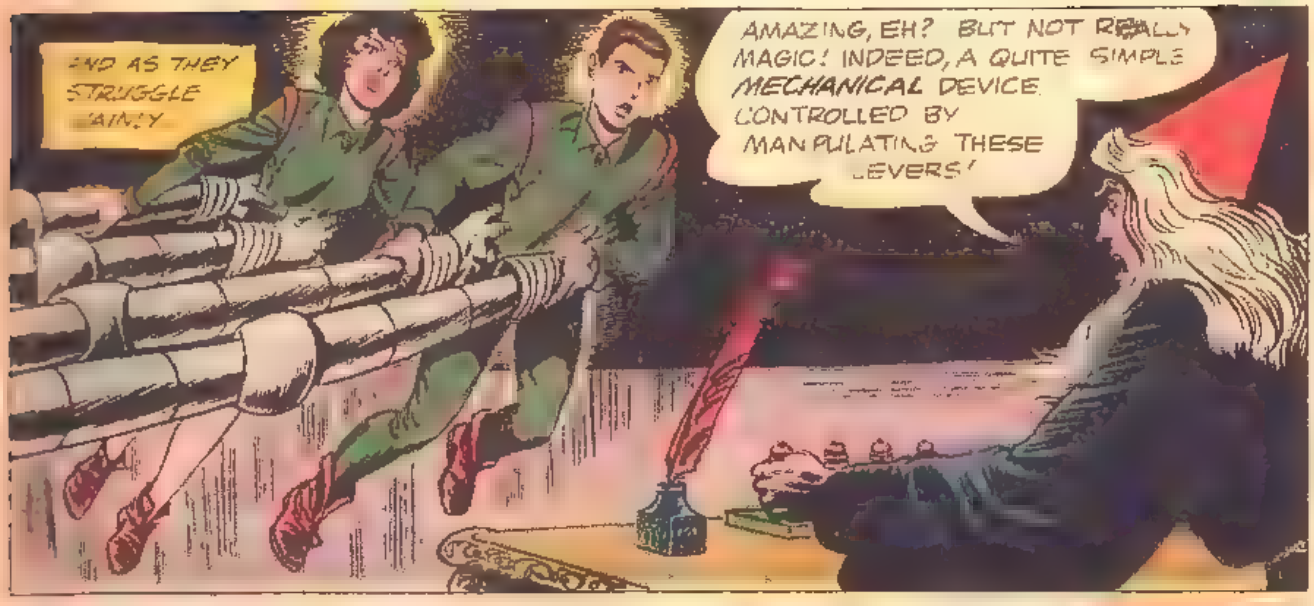
BUT...
WELL, WELL --IT SEEMS THAT I AM ABOUT TO RECEIVE SOME UNINVITED GUESTS!

NEXT INSTANT...
GREAT THUNDER! THE CHIMNEY WALL TURNED SMOOTH AS GLASS!

STUPID FOOLS! DID YOU THINK I WOULD LEAVE MYSELF UNPROTECTED?

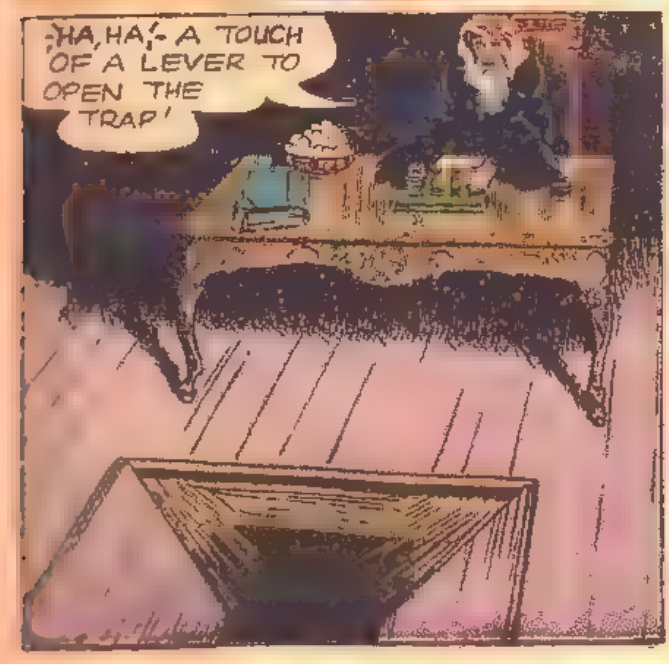

YOU'LL NEED A LOT MORE PROTECTION THAN THAT, WIZARD!

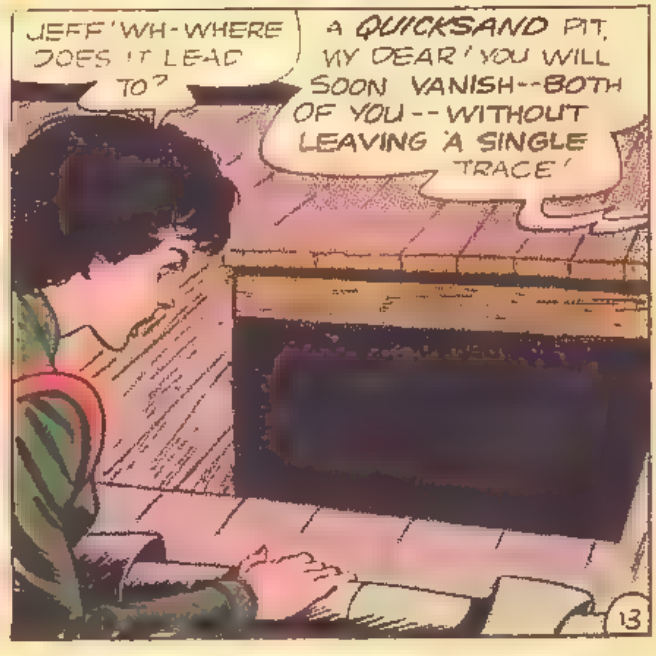

HA, HA! I HAVE A GREAT DEAL MORE!
JEFF! TH-THE IRON ARMS OF THOSE ARMOR FIGURES... THEY'RE ELONGATING!

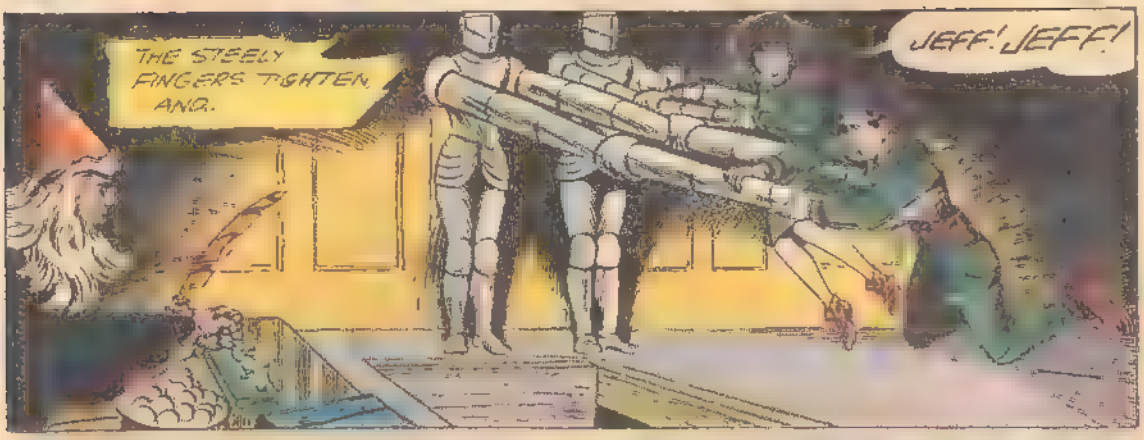

AND AS THEY STRUGGLE VAINLY
AMAZING, EH? BUT NOT REALLY MAGIC! INDEED, A QUITE SIMPLE MECHANICAL DEVICE CONTROLLED BY MANIPULATING THESE LEVERS!

I TAKE IT YOU CAME HERE TO OBTAIN THIS ANTIDOTE FOR THE DUC DE OGILVIE?
SO THERE IS AN ANTIDOTE! BUT-- WHY ARE YOU TELLING US?

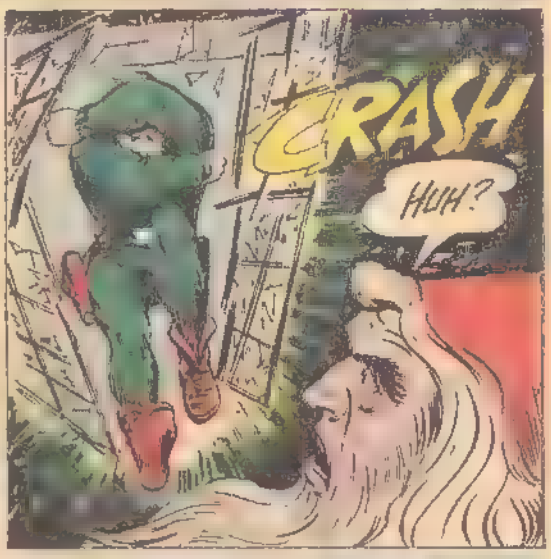
WHY SHOULDN'T I? YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REVEAL MY SECRET--SINCE YOU WILL NOT LEAVE HERE ALIVE!


HA, HA! - A TOUCH OF A LEVER TO OPEN THE TRAP!

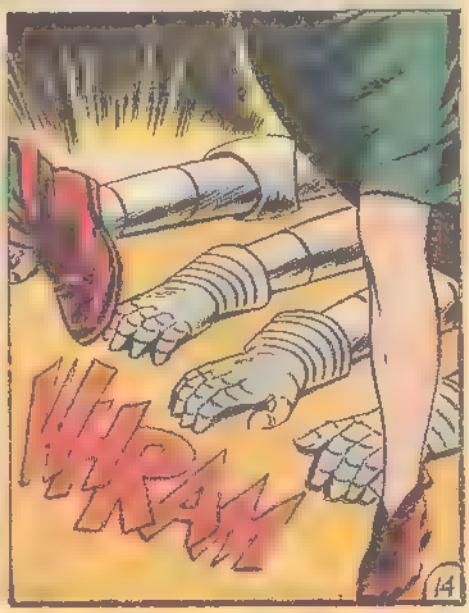

JEFF! WH-WHERE DOES IT LEAD TO?
A QUICKSAND PIT, MY DEAR! YOU WILL SOON VANISH--BOTH OF YOU--WITHOUT LEAVING A SINGLE TRACE!

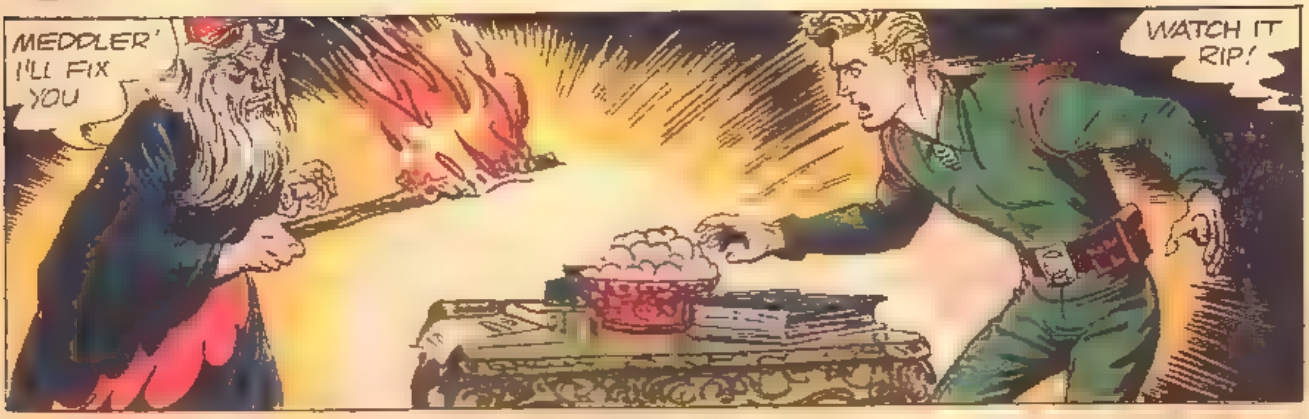

THE STEELY FINGERS TIGHTEN AND.
JEFF! JEFF!

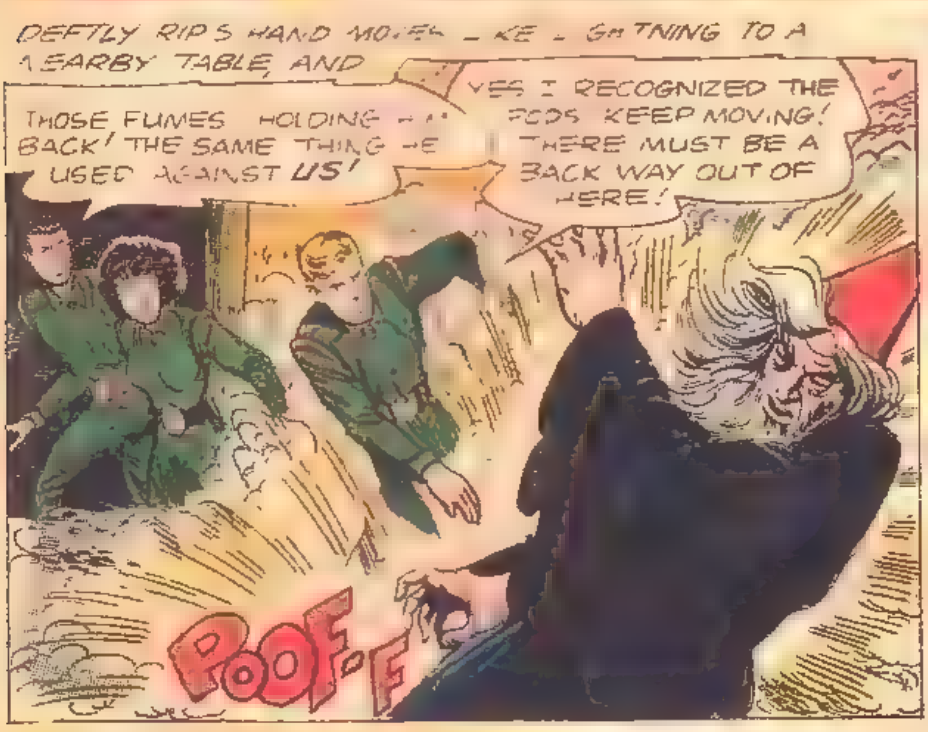
AT THIS VERY MOMENT, ON A WINDOW LEDGE OUTSIDE...
GREAT THUNDER! THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE!


CRASH
HUH?

MOMENTARILY, THE SORCERER LOSES CONTROL OF HIS ARMORED ROBOTS, AS
JEFF BONNIE - GET OUT OF RANGE OF THOSE ARMS!
OH, NO YOU DON'T!


WRAK

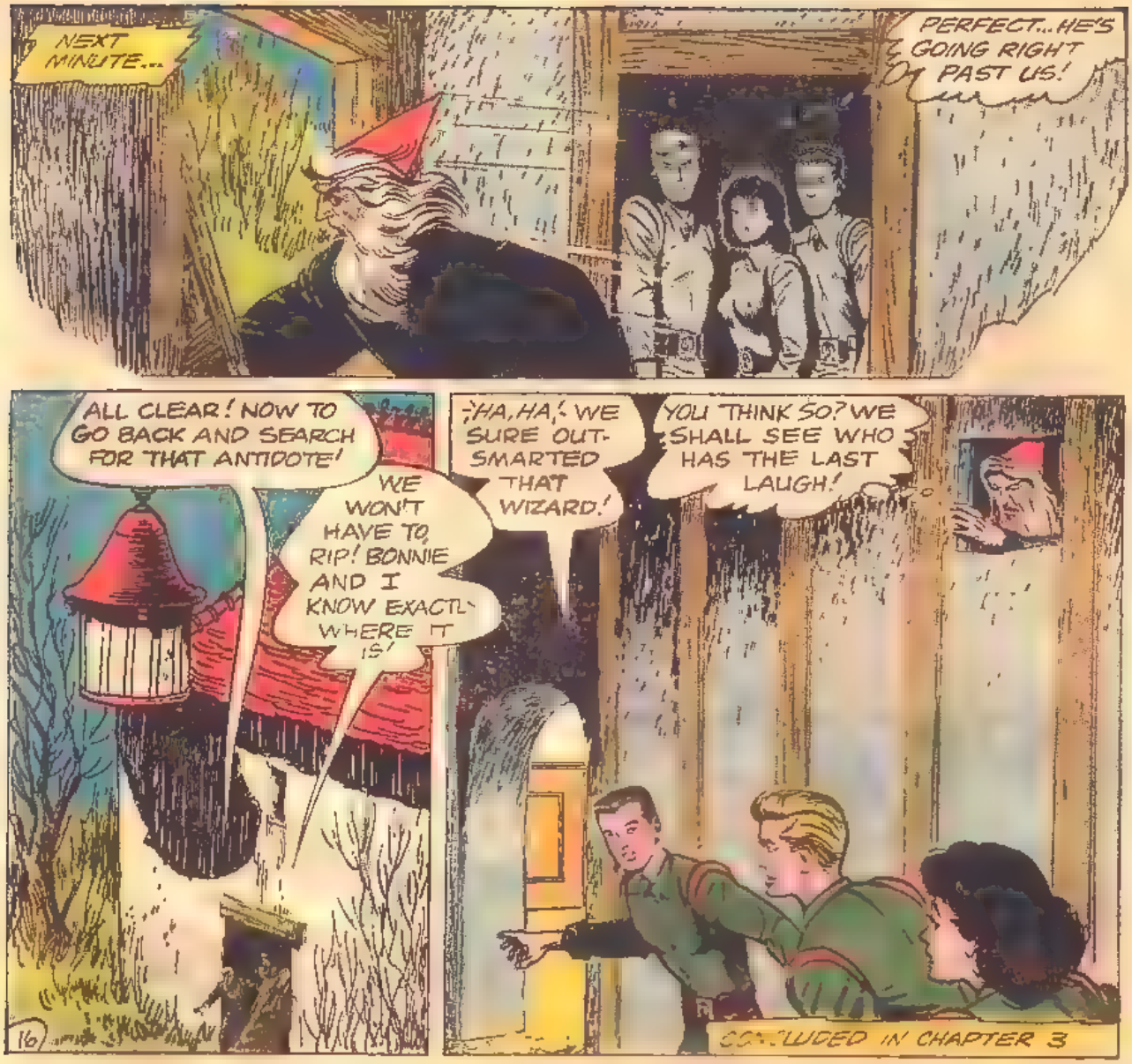

MEDDLER! I'LL FIX YOU
WATCH IT RIP!


DEFTLY RIP'S HAND MOVES LIKE LIGHTNING TO A NEARBY TABLE, AND
THOSE FUMES HOLDING HIM BACK! THE SAME THING HE USED AGAINST US!
YES I RECOGNIZED THE PODS KEEP MOVING! THERE MUST BE A BACK WAY OUT OF HERE!
POOF-F

HERE HE COMES, RIP!

AS THEY REACH THE END OF THE CORRIDOR...
SMASH

THROUGH HERE?
NO! I WANT VAREAU TO THINK WE WENT THROUGH THERE! HIDE BACK HERE!



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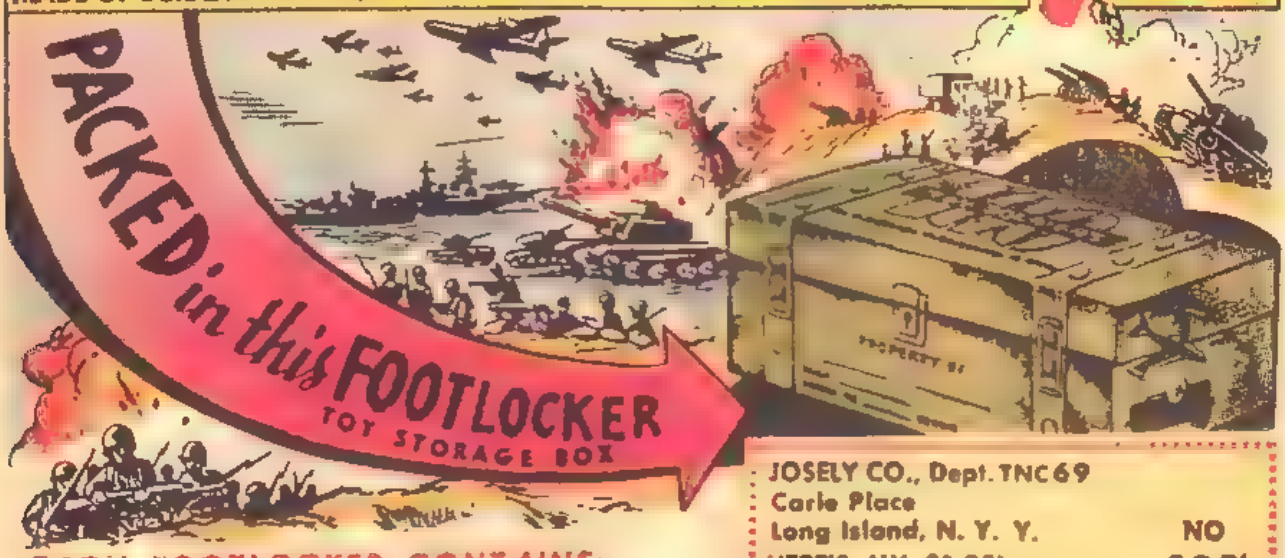

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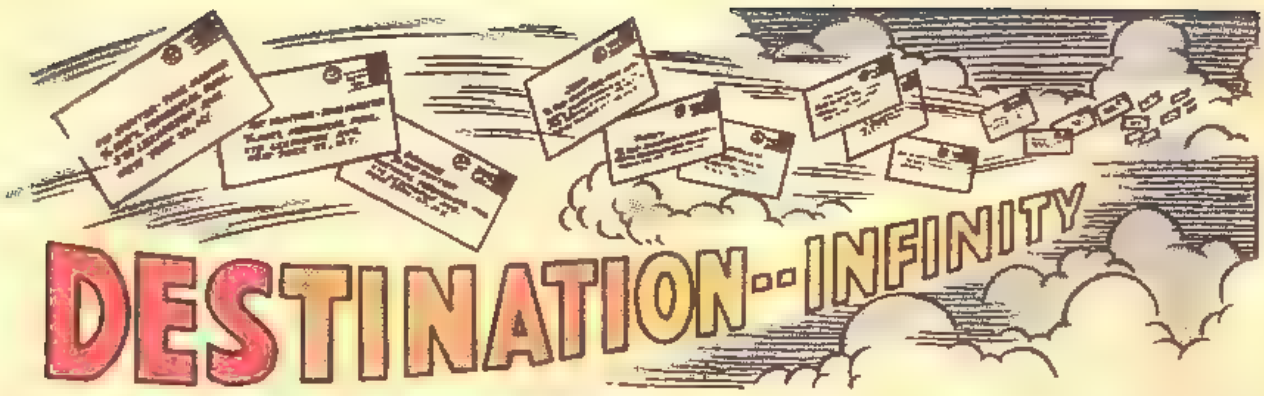


Dear Rip Hunter: To settle an argument, can you tell us if the word "Pharaoh" meant "King" or "God." We understand that the Pharaoh was considered a god by his subjects.

Jayne Wheeler & Diane Martin, Denver, Colo.

(*Originally, the literal meaning of the word Pharaoh meant "Great House," and referred to the official residence of the Egyptian ruler. In time, the title was used to designate the ruler himself. And by the way, although the people called the Pharaoh "The God" they didn't mean that in a literal sense, but as a mark of great respect.—Rip Hunter*)

* * *

Dear Rip Hunter: I hope to be a doctor someday, so my question concerns medicine. I read somewhere that the first medical school in history was founded during the Middle Ages, in France. If so, can you supply any details?

Frank Barrone, Utica, N. Y.

(*You're quite a few years out of the way. Although there is no exact record when the very first medical school opened, there was a flourishing college of medicine as far back as 450 B.C., in Cos, Greece. This was the school founded by Hippocrates, who is more famous for the "Hippocratic Oath" which all medical students had to take—and which is still regarded as a guiding principle for the medical profession today.—Rip Hunter*)

* * *

Dear Corky: The adventures of King Arthur were my favorite stories for many years. What I would like to know is, was there actually such a group as the Knights of the Round Table in ancient England?

Peter Waxler, New York, N. Y.

(*No. These tales were originally French stories, translated by one of England's greatest early authors, Sir Thomas Malory, in 1485.—Corky*)

* * *

Dear Jeff: My hobby is coin collecting, and recently I acquired two authentic ancient Roman coins. So you can see why I am now very anxious to learn as much as possible about Roman coinage. For instance, can you tell me what types of money were coined at that time, their value and what metals they were made from?

Sue Harris, Oakland, Calif.

(*There were five different pieces of Roman money. Here they are, in the order of their ascending value: the* as *was a copper piece of low value; the* sesterius, *made of silver, was worth twice an* as; *the* quinarius, *made of silver, was worth twice a* sesterius; *the* denarius, *made of silver, was worth twice a* sestertius; *and the* aureus, *made of gold, was worth about twenty times a* denarius. *The gold piece was only coined for special occasions, and was not normally in circulation. The coins bore stamped heads of gods and goddesses, consuls and other public figures.—Jeff*)

* * *

Dear Bonnie: You mentioned a number of things that ancient girls used, such as nail polish and make-up. This was quite surprising. But I think you made one mistake. You also said they admired themselves in mirrors. My teacher says glass mirrors weren't invented until much later.

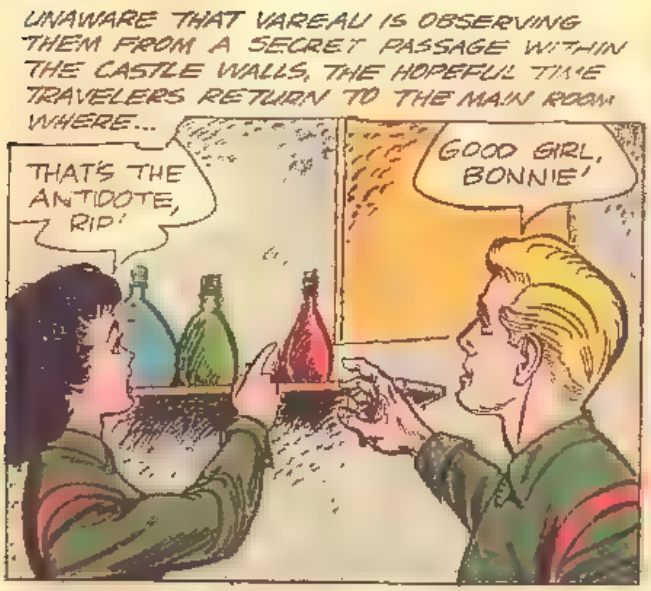
Sally Johnson, Montclair, N. J.

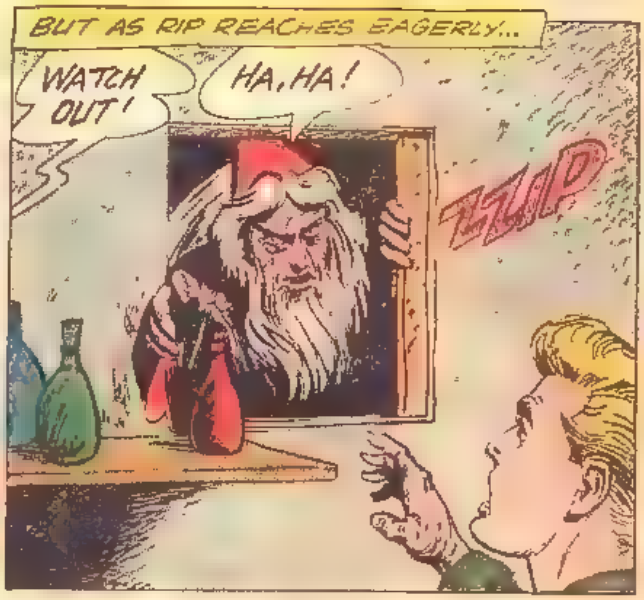
(*Your teacher is right.* Glass *mirrors weren't invented until the 13th century. But the ancient Greek and Roman girls were able to admire themselves in mirrors of polished metals.—Bonnie*)

THE OMINOUS NEWS OF THE ESCAPE REACHES THE HAPLESS TIME TRAVELERS TOO LATE -- FOR, TRY AS THEY MAY THERE IS NO POSSIBLE WAY TO AVERT...

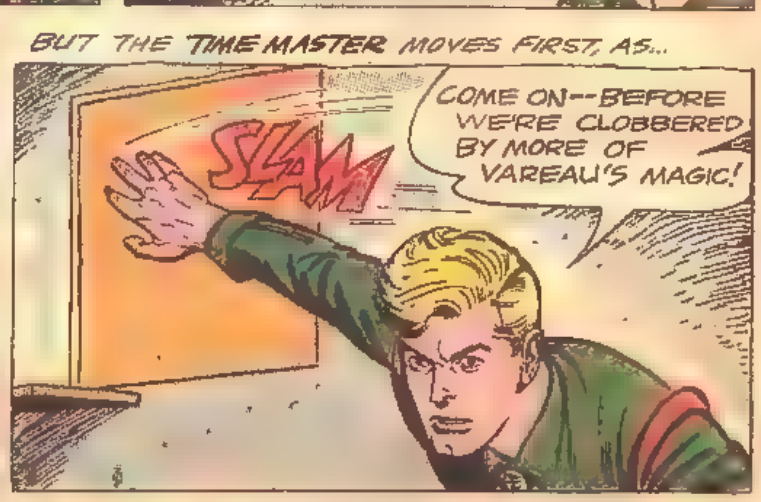
CHAPTER 3

the BEAST'S REVENGE


UNAWARE THAT VAREAU IS OBSERVING THEM FROM A SECRET PASSAGE WITHIN THE CASTLE WALLS, THE HOPEFUL TIME TRAVELERS RETURN TO THE MAIN ROOM WHERE...
THAT'S THE ANTIDOTE, RIP!
GOOD GIRL, BONNIE!


BUT AS RIP REACHES EAGERLY...
WATCH OUT!
HA, HA!
FLIP

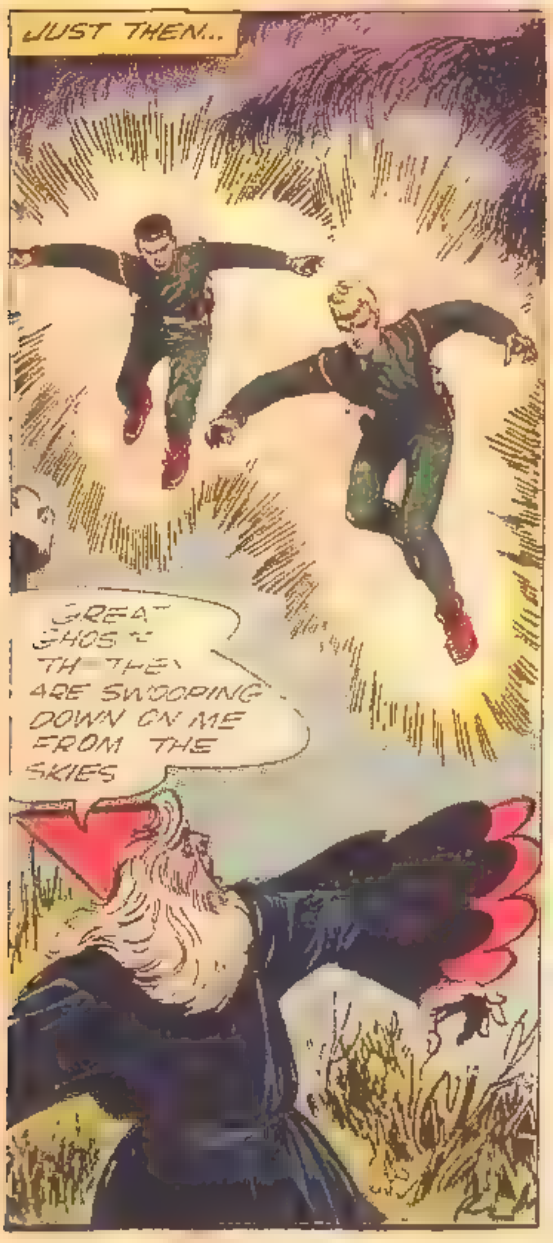
THERE GOES THE ANTIDOTE!
YES--AND NOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOU!


BUT THE TIME MASTER MOVES FIRST, AS...
SLAM
COME ON--BEFORE WE'RE CLOBBERED BY MORE OF VAREAU'S MAGIC!

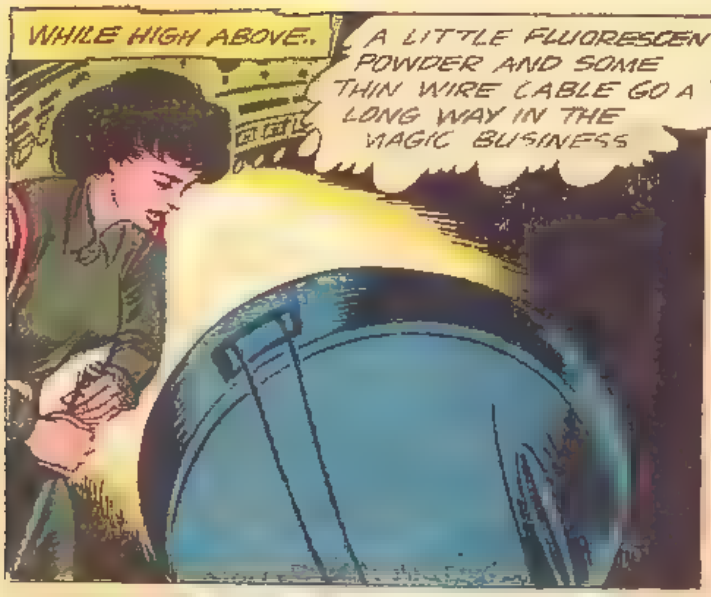
SHORTLY IN THE DENSE WOODS OUTSIDE
HE'S SEARCHING FOR US, BUT CAN'T DECIDE WHICH WAY WE WENT
WE'RE SAFE FOR A WHILE! BUT WHAT'S THE NEXT MOVE, RIP?

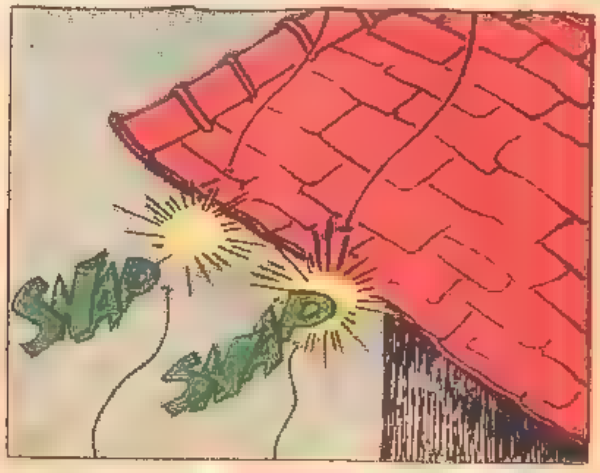
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SCARE VAREAU INTO GIVING US THAT ANTIDOTE--AND I'VE GOT AN IDEA HOW WE CAN PULL IT OFF! LET'S GO!

BEFORE LONG, AS VAREAU RETURNS FROM A VAIN SEARCH
THEY'LL BE BACK FOR THE ANTIDOTE--AND I'LL BE READY FOR THEM!


JUST THEN...
GREAT GHOST! THEY'RE SWOOPING DOWN ON ME FROM THE SKIES

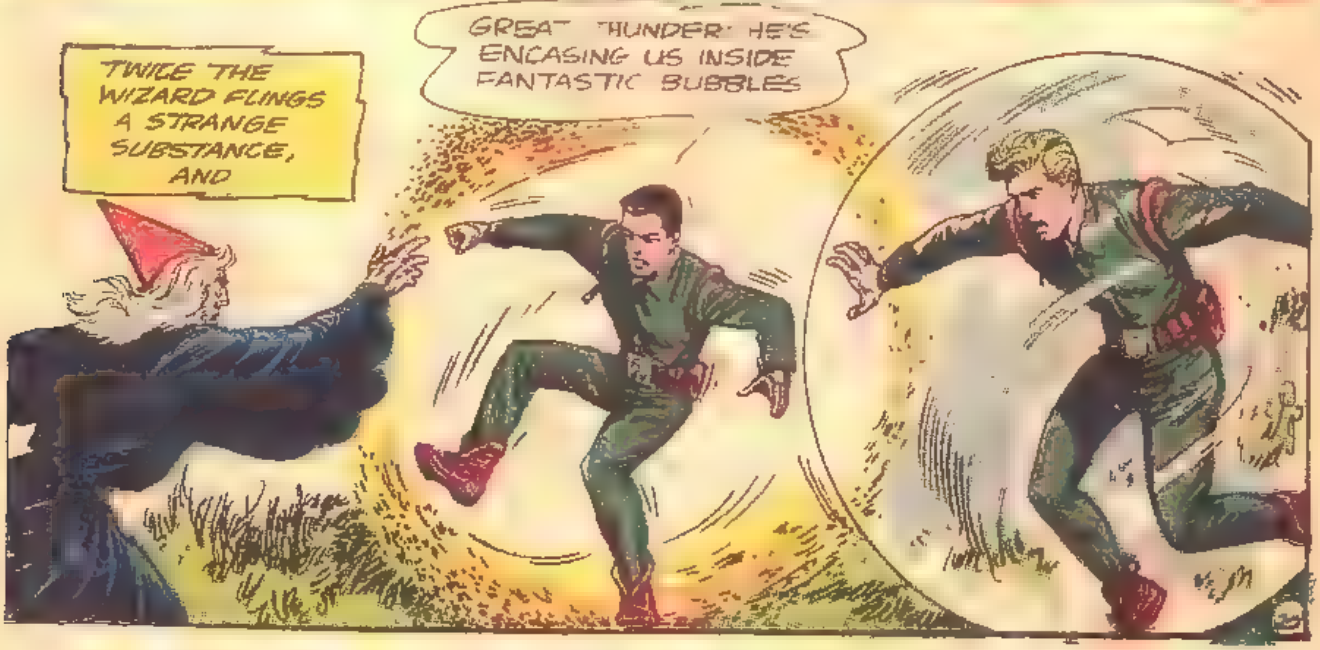
YOU SEE, VAREAU? OUR POWERS ARE EVEN GREATER THAN YOURS!
I DO NOT HARM ME!
YOU ARE SAFE IF YOU HAND OVER THAT ANTIDOTE!
YES, YES


WHILE HIGH ABOVE..
A LITTLE FLUORESCENT POWDER AND SOME THIN WIRE CABLE GO A LONG WAY IN THE MAGIC BUSINESS

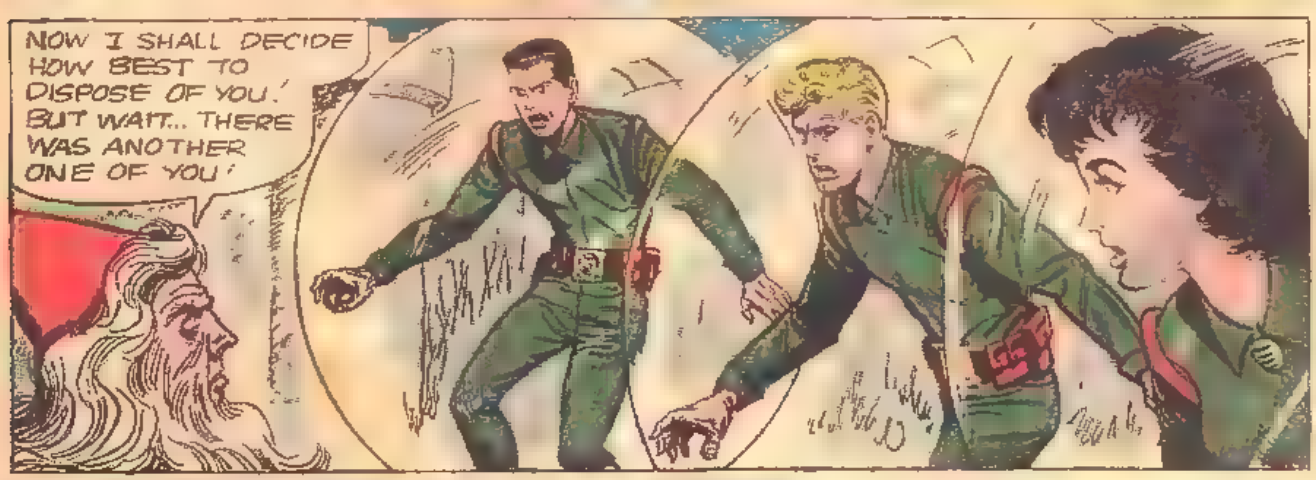

BUT NEXT INSTANT, AN IRONIC TWIST OF FATE, AS THE THIN CABLES SCRAPE ALONG A SHARP EDGE OF THE CASTLE ROOF, AND..
SWAP
SWAP

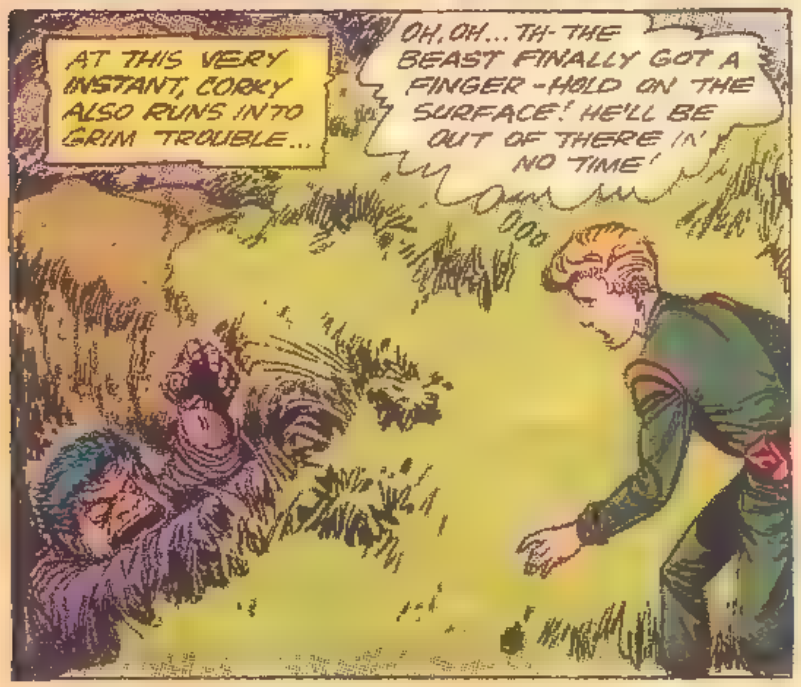
OOF!
WELL, WELL! YOU SEEM SUDDENLY TO HAVE LOST YOUR MAGICAL POWERS!

WELL, I HAVEN'T LOST MINE!

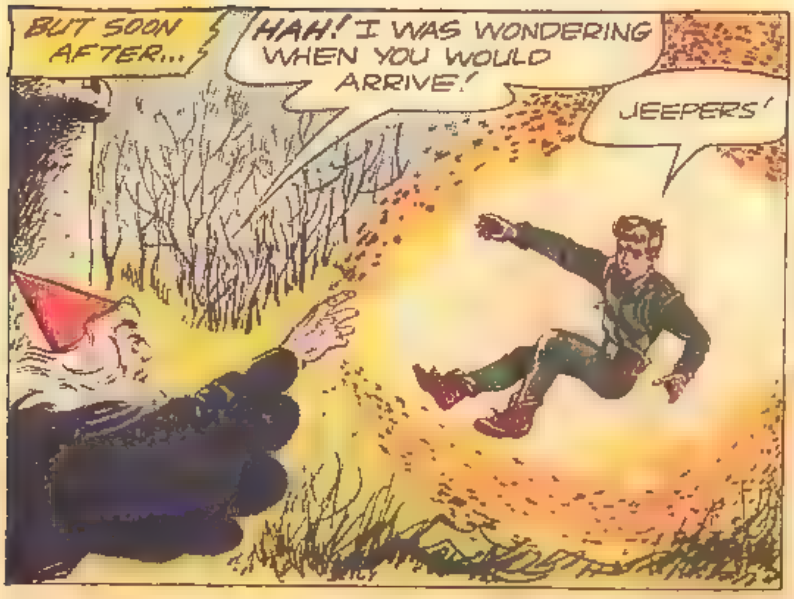

TWICE THE WIZARD FLINGS A STRANGE SUBSTANCE, AND
GREAT THUNDER! HE'S ENCASING US INSIDE FANTASTIC BUBBLES

SWIFTLY, RIP HUNTER WHIPS OUT HIS GUN -- BUT WHEN HE FIRES..
HA, HA! A REMARKABLE WEAPON INDEED! BUT YOUR PRISON CAN BE BURST ONLY FROM THE OUTSIDE -- AND EVEN THEN, IT WOULD REQUIRE VERY GREAT STRENGTH!
BAM BAM
MEANWHILE, AFTER LANDING THE TIME SPHERE, BONNIE RACES TO THE AID OF HER COMPANIONS, BUT.
WELCOME TO OUR LITTLE GATHERING, YOUNG LADY!
OH, NO!


NOW I SHALL DECIDE HOW BEST TO DISPOSE OF YOU! BUT WAIT... THERE WAS ANOTHER ONE OF YOU!


AT THIS VERY INSTANT, CORKY ALSO RUNS INTO GRIM TROUBLE...
OH, OH... TH-THE BEAST FINALLY GOT A FINGER-HOLD ON THE SURFACE! HE'LL BE OUT OF THERE IN NO TIME!

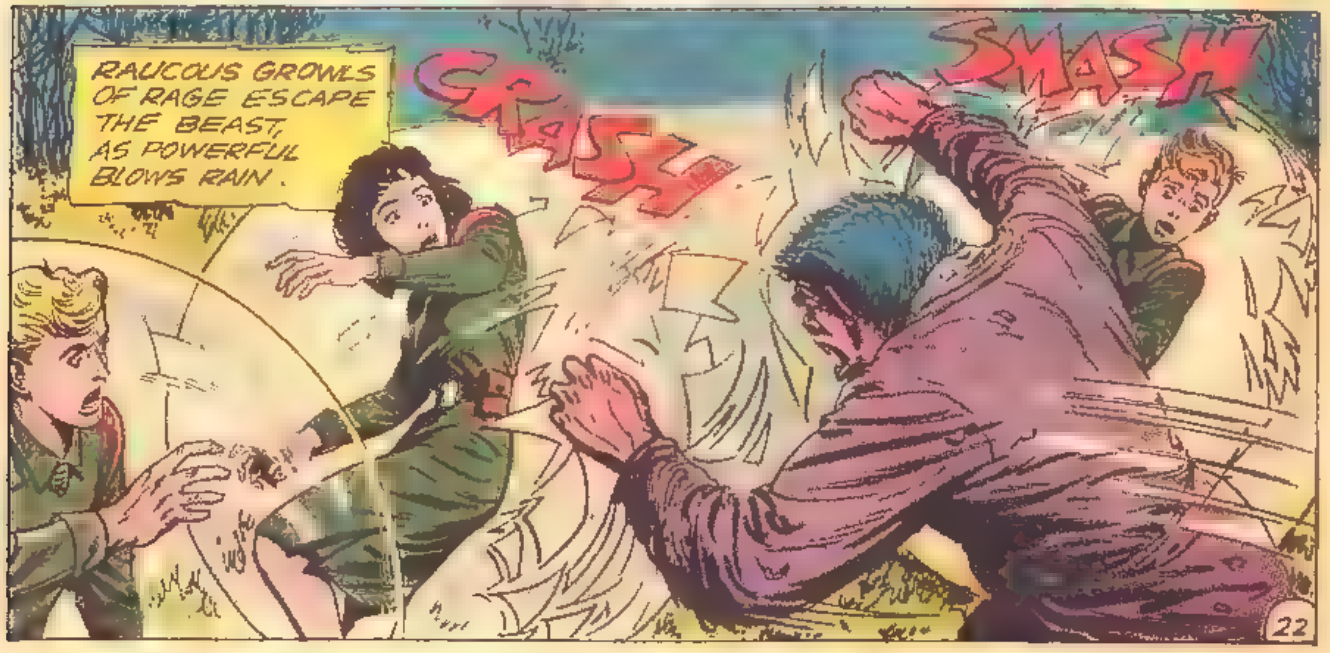
BETTER TELL RIP!

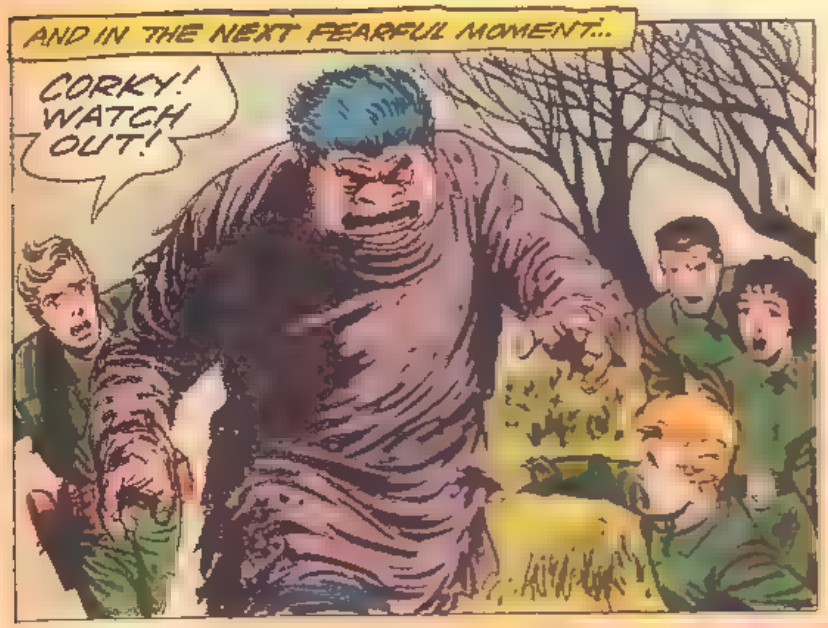

BUT SOON AFTER...
HAH! I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU WOULD ARRIVE!
JEEPERS!

SO...THIS IS THE BRAVE GROUP WHO DARED TO CHALLENGE ME ;HA, HA,!

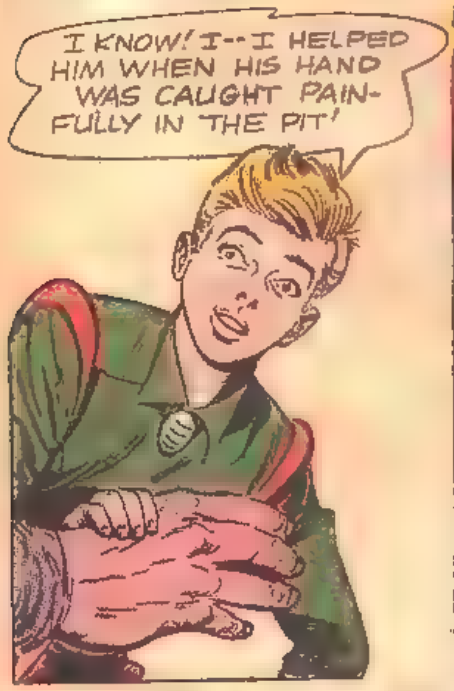
WELL...NOW THE PARTY IS COMPLETE! I WILL LET THE DUC DE OGILVIE FINISH YOU OFF FOR ME!

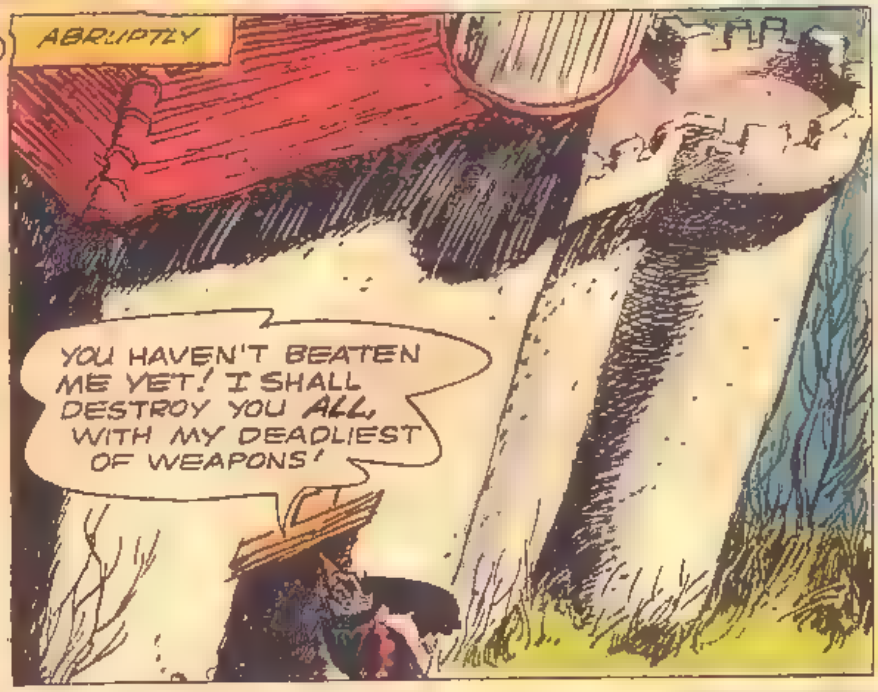
THAT'S IT! AFTER THEM! THEY ARE HELP-ESS TO STOP YOU HA, HA, HA!

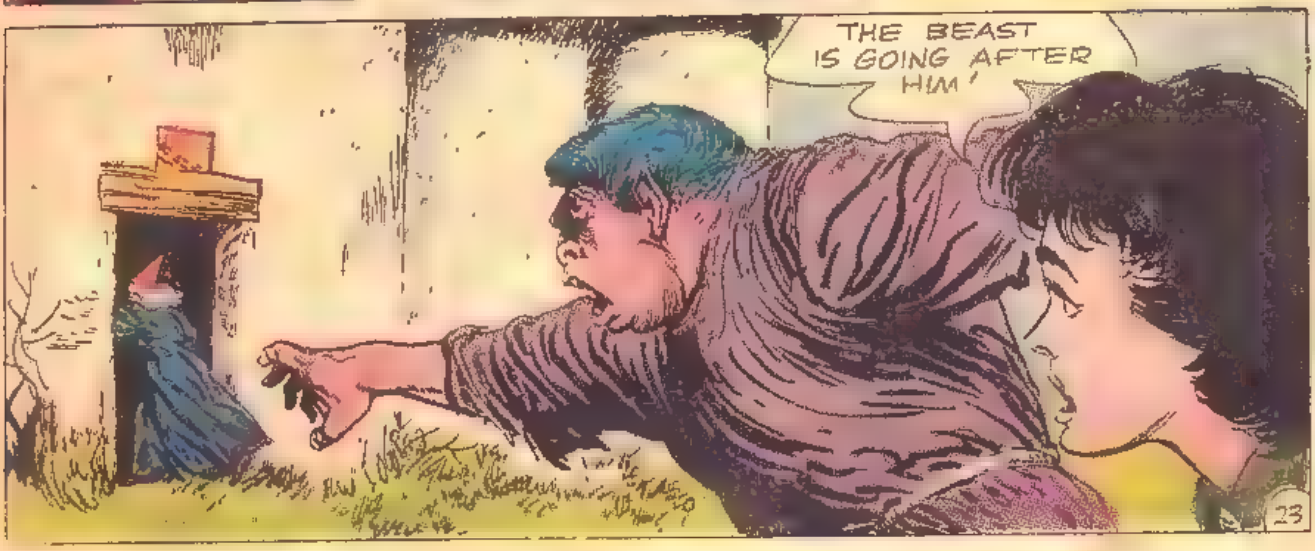

RAUCOUS GROWLS OF RAGE ESCAPE THE BEAST, AS POWERFUL BLOWS RAIN.
CRASH
SMASH

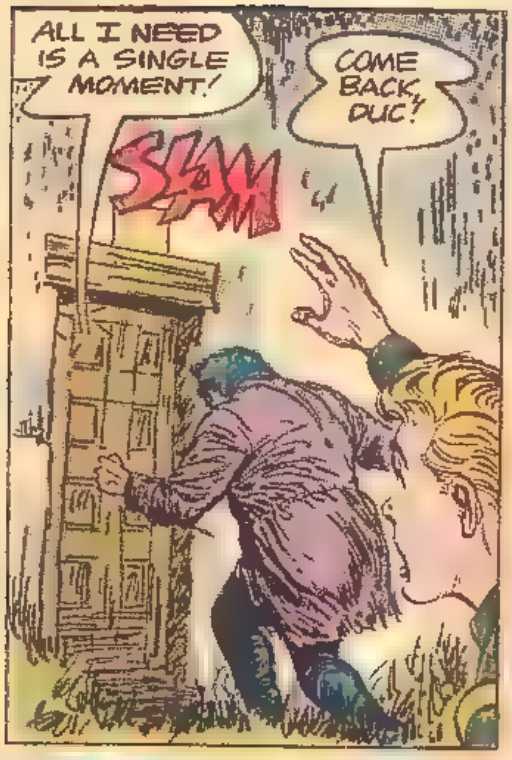

AND IN THE NEXT FEARFUL MOMENT...
CORKY! WATCH OUT!

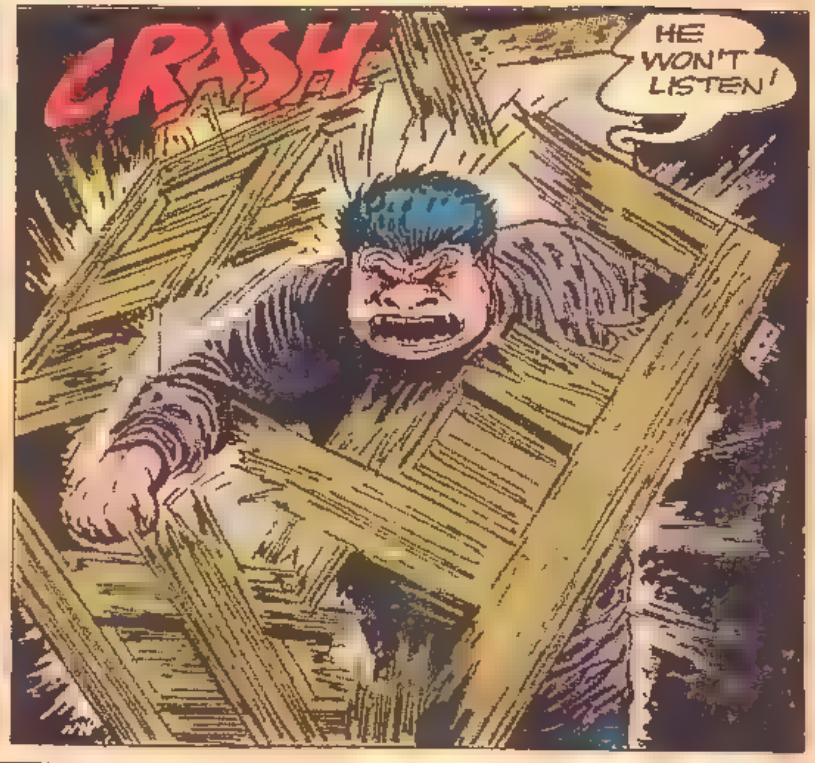
BUT, TO THEIR AMAZEMENT...
GREAT THUNDER! HE--HE'S PATTING CORKY ON THE HEAD! WH-WHY?


I KNOW! I--I HELPED HIM WHEN HIS HAND WAS CAUGHT PAINFULLY IN THE PIT!

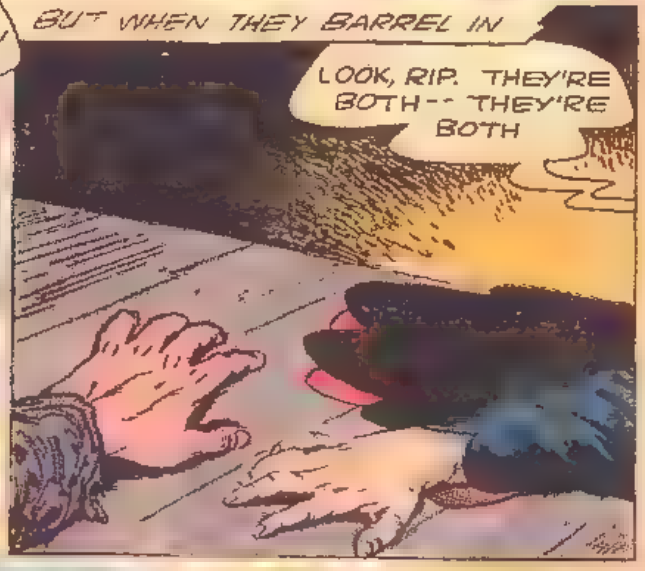

ABRUPTLY
YOU HAVEN'T BEATEN ME YET! I SHALL DESTROY YOU ALL, WITH MY DEADLIEST OF WEAPONS!

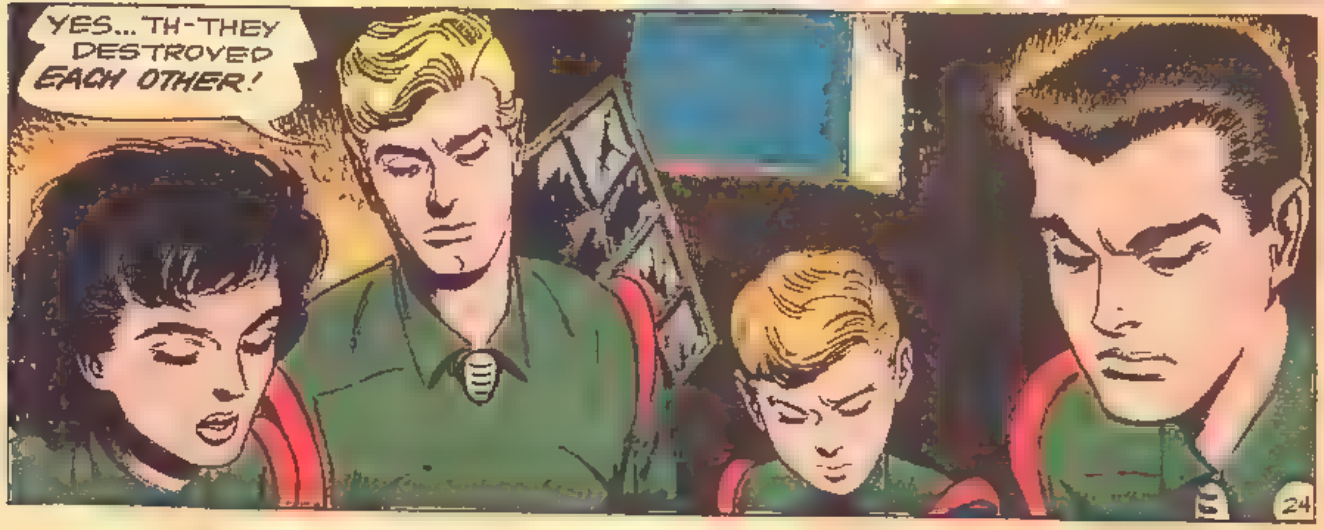

THE BEAST IS GOING AFTER HIM!

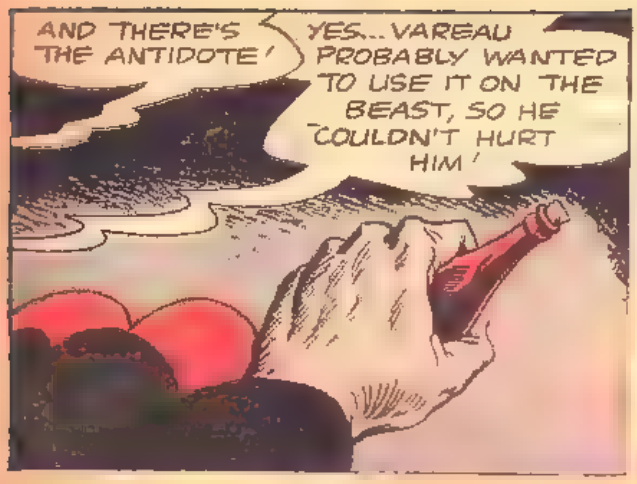

ALL I NEED IS A SINGLE MOMENT!
COME BACK, DUC!
SLAM

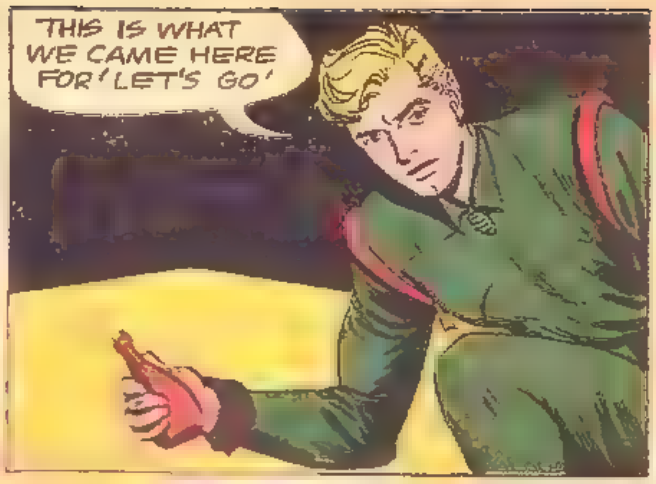

CRASH
HE WON'T LISTEN!

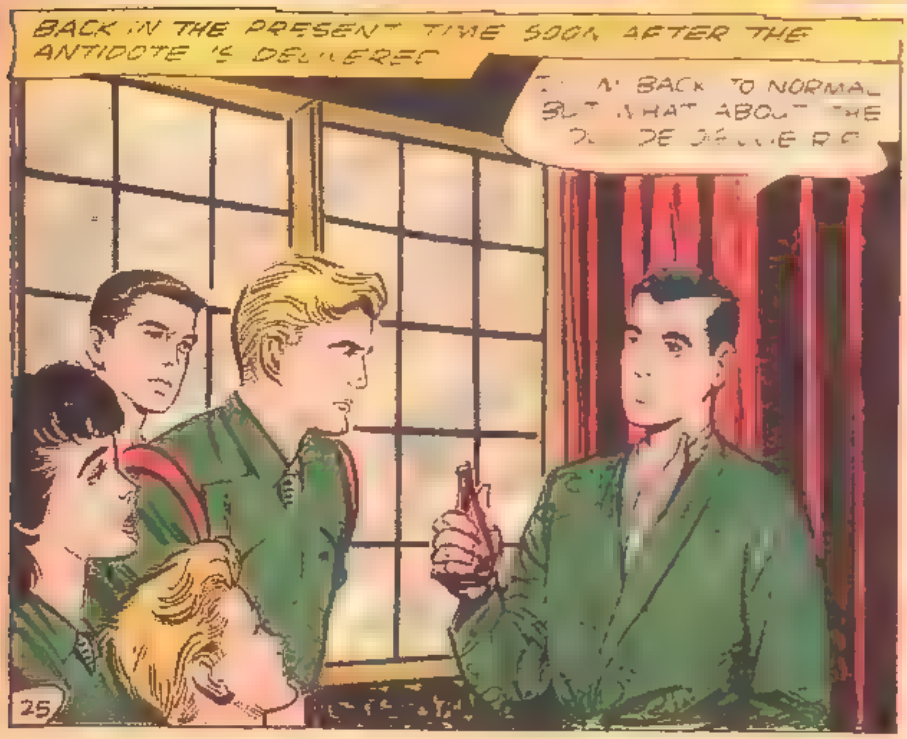
THAT BEAST WILL KILL VAREAU!
OR THE OTHER WAY AROUND! COME ON!
CRASH


BUT WHEN THEY BARREL IN
LOOK, RIP. THEY'RE BOTH -- THEY'RE BOTH


YES... TH-THEY DESTROYED EACH OTHER!







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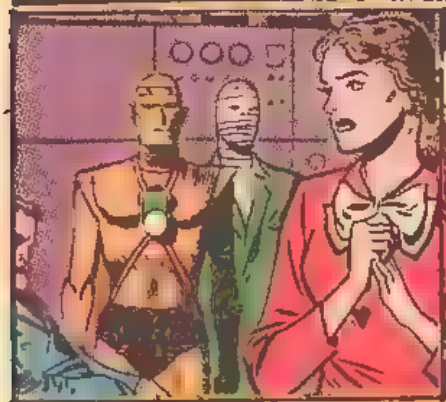

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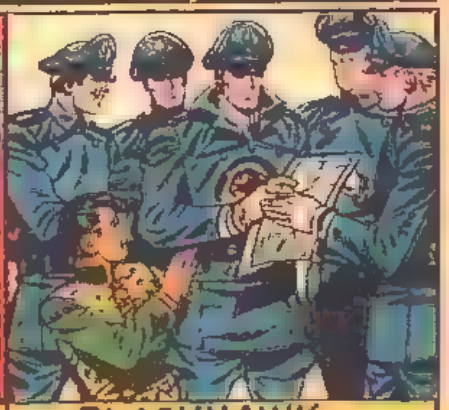
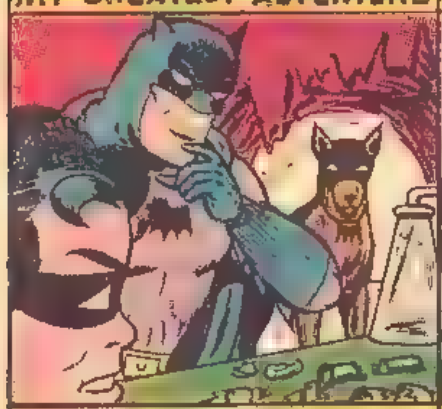


BLACKHAWK



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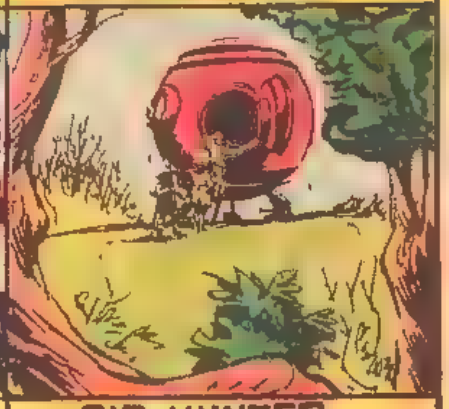

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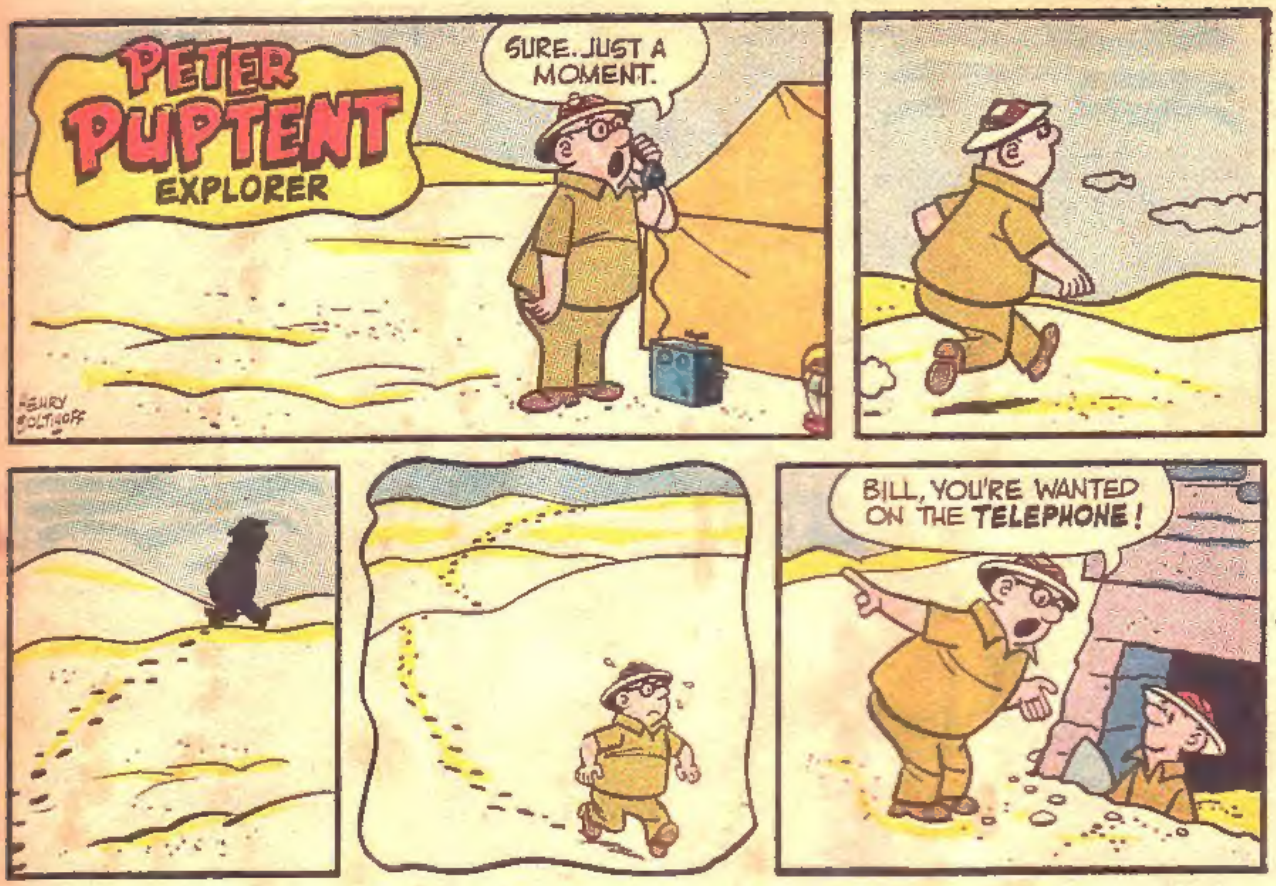

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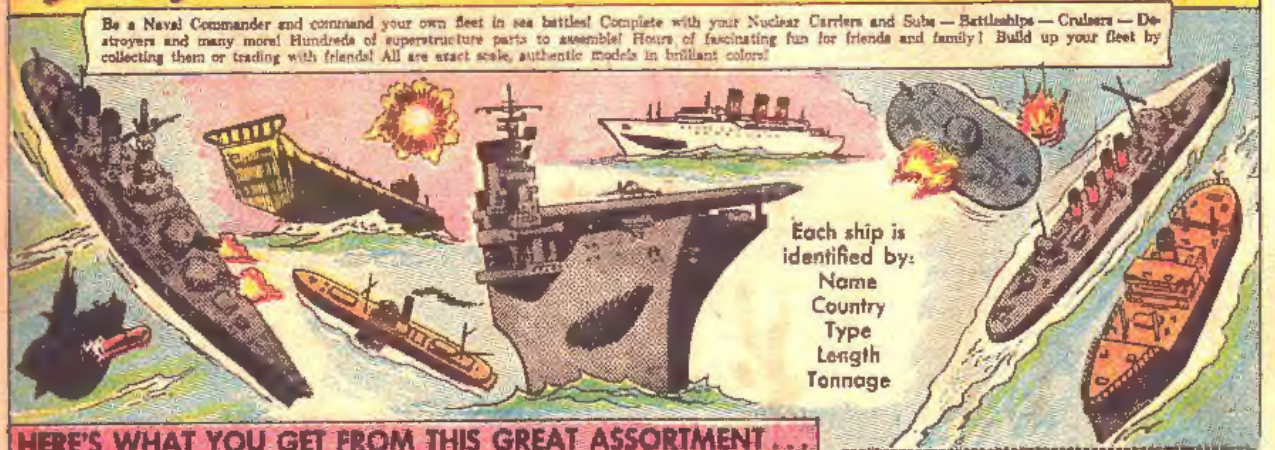

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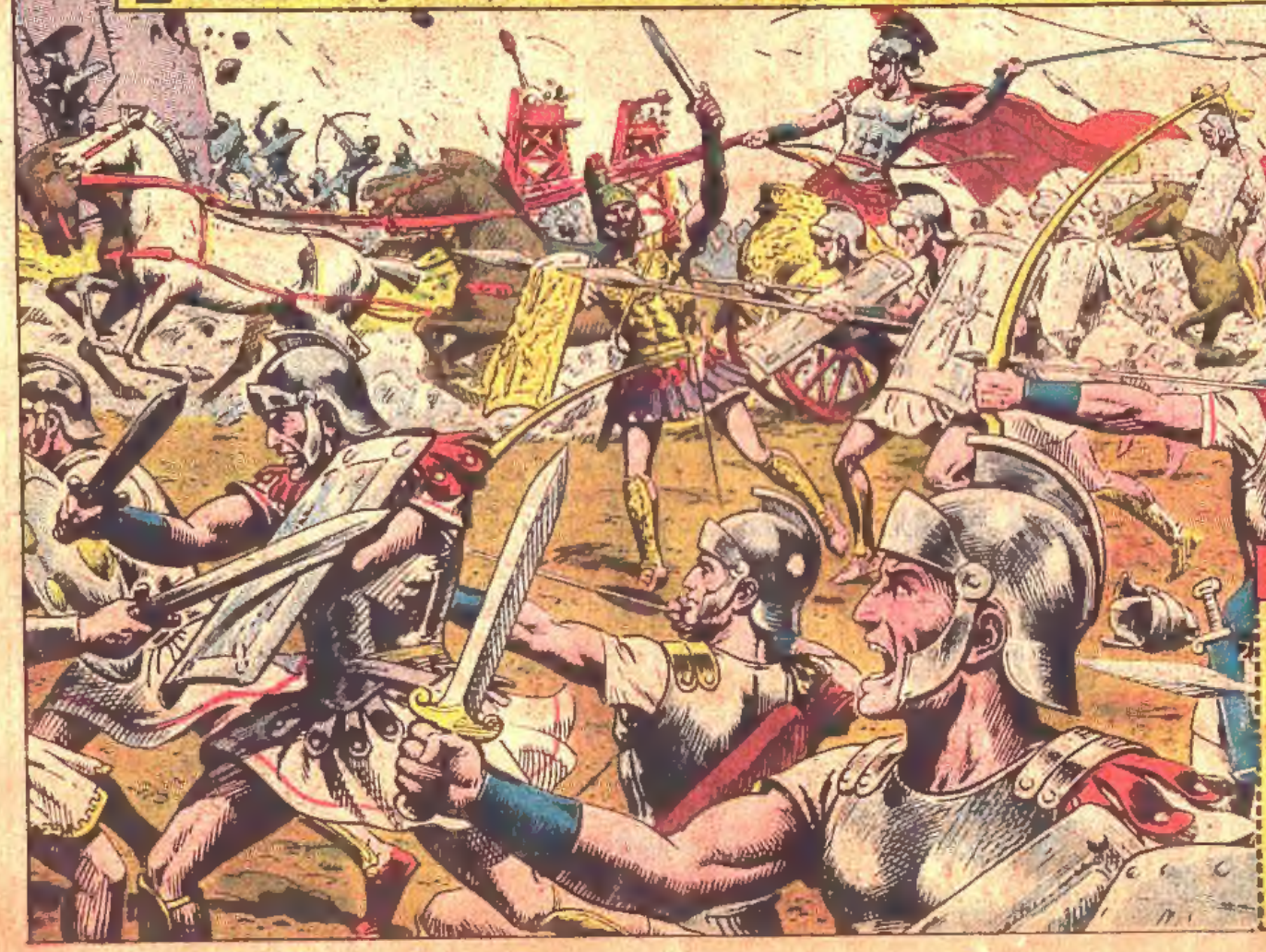

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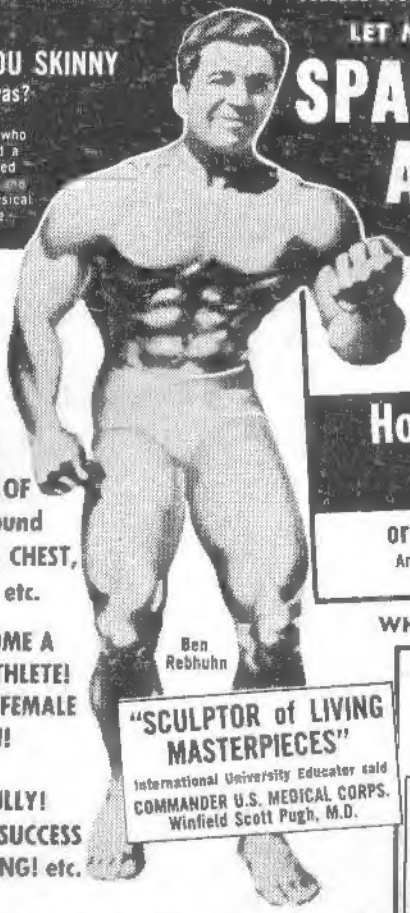

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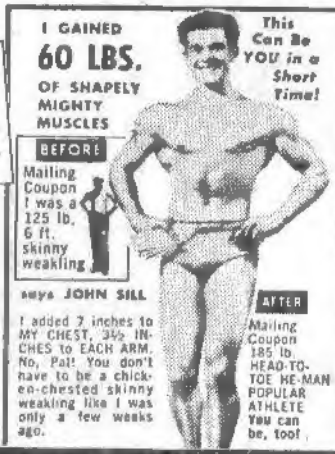

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